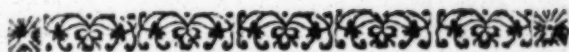


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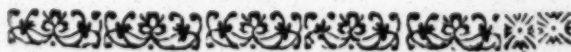


S E C R E T

MEMOIRS

Of the late

COUNT *SAXE*,
Marshal of *France*, &c.





S E C R E T
M E M O I R S

Of the Late *Moritz*

COUNT *SAXE*,^k
MARSHAL of *France*,
A N D

GENERAL of the *French* Army,
during the late W A R S in
Flanders:

W I T H
A particular ACCOUNT of his
Amours and Gallantry in his younger
Years.

Translated from a *French* MSS.

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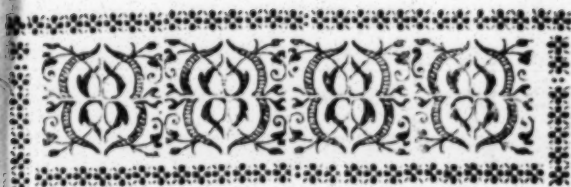
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SECRET
MEMOIRS

Of the Late

COUNT *SAXE*,

MARSHAL of *France*, &c.

OUR brightest Pens are
now, no doubt, at work
to celebrate, with all the
pompous Strokes of Rhetorick,
and with the most refined Enco-
B miums

miums which delicate Flattery can suggest, the Fame and Glory of our late General; but would they take my Advice, I would have them, before they attempt to eternize the Memory of their Hero, look into the Annals of the late Reign, at that Period, where our *grand Monarch* had the Misfortune of having his Armies beat, his Towns taken, and his whole vast and extensive Kingdom at the Mercy of a conquering Enemy; by a comparative View they then must see, that our General, even in his most renown'd Actions, could not, without fulsom Flattery, be represented, but as a faint Copy of an *English* Original:*

* The Duke of *Marlborough*.
This,

This, if his Panegyrists are not resolved to jump over all Obstacles, would stop them in their commendatory Career, and shew them, that sometimes Monuments† rather serve to perpetuate the Folly and Vanity of the Erecters, than the Merit of the Persons whom they intend to honour by them; by this, however, I would not seem to derogate from the Merit and Worth of this truly great Man, but only to let the Reader see, that I am not touched with that almost epidemical Distemper of my Country,

† The King has ordered a Monument to be erected in honour of his successful General, with a Groupe of flattering Encomiums.

in madly erecting Monuments to the Honour of Princes, whose Faults often eclipsed their Virtues, and of Subjects whom Fortune favoured more in Services rendered to their King and Country, than any Superiority of Genius or Talents: But as it is not my Design in this little Piece, to follow our General through his political Labyrinths, in which he was often bewildered, nor to the Field of *Mars*, where his military Exploits have been so pompously cried about in our Streets, and confirmed by *Te Deums* in our Churches: I shall make it my principal Business to trace him through the softer Scenes of Life, to all which I was privy, and can with Confidence affirm, that I religiously adhere to Truth; but
tho'

tho' his Amours and Gallantries are what I principally aim at, yet as there was such a Connection betwixt his Political, Military and amorous Characters, I must sometimes attend him in the Closet, the Council-Table, and the Field, as well as in the Circles and at the Toilets.

As I had Occasion to be about our late General for many Years, I had an Opportunity of studying his Character, and observing it in all the various Turns of his Fortune, and tho' his Temper and Disposition were not otherwise changed by his Elevation, than what is incident to human Nature in the different Periods of Life; yet when he came to move in a high Sphere, he thought pro-

per not only to change his Way of Living, but likewise his open, frank, and familiar Behaviour with many whom he had formerly admitted into his Parties of Pleasure; some of whom carried their Resentment so far, as to join with the Princes C—i and C——t his avowed Enemies, the former upon Account of his Mother (whose Amours with the General were carried on to such a Height, and in so publick a Manner, that Attempts were more than once made to get her confined, by an Order from the King, in the Convent of the *Val de Grace*) and the latter, upon the King's preferring a Stranger to the Command of the Army, preferably to himself, and to the Prince of C—i, his Cousin, as well as C—y
his

his Brother, all, in their own, and likewise in the Opinions of many others, as well if not better, qualified to act in the Station of General, as the Count *de Saxe*; but this Mystery cannot be so properly unravel'd now, as it will be in the Sequel of these Memoirs, when the Springs and Sources of the Court Factions and Plots will be laid open, so as to shew how our General, notwithstanding the combined Efforts of the Princes of the Blood and their Party, forced his Way into the King's Favour, and was in Possession of it unrivalled for so many Years, and indeed to the last Hour of his Life.

'Tis needless to take up the Reader's Time with an Account

of his Family and Birth; every Body knows that he was a natural Son of the late King of *Poland*. His Mother was one of the finest Women in *Saxony*, and his Father a Prince of a vigorous Body, warm Constitution, and the fondest of Lovers; no wonder then that a Son begot by such Progenitors, should not only be endowed with uncommon personal Advantages, but likewise have a Heart capable of soft Impressions, and a Body, from such Sources, exquisitely framed for the Scenes of Love, in which it must be owned, he rather exceeded than came short of his Father's Reputation.

I could fill up a Page or two in the Description of his Person, which

which Nature had taken Care to finish with all the Art she usually employs, when she makes a Master-piece, but as I neither intend to come under a Suspicion of Flattery, nor of exaggerating in the romantic Strain, I shall only add upon this Head, that many a poor Female confessed his irresistible Merit in the Loss of her Innocence and Virtue.

Scarce was our Hero initiated into Love's Mysteries, when *Billets Doux* came crowding upon him from all Quarters, and he extremely willing, as well as capable to oblige, had no Notion of breaking any Girl's Love-sick Heart by denying her the proper Remedy; and I can safely say that before he entered his Seven-

teenth Year, he was in great Reputation, and had performed wonderful Cures on Females troubled with languishing Distempers; but as his Patients applied to him for their Cure, he had no Trouble in persuading them to use it, and therefore for some Time he ranged from Fair to Fair with an Assiduity, of which none but one of his Strength and Vigour could have supported the Fatigue.

Hitherto our gallant Count had practised only among Tradesmen's Wives and Daughters, Milleners, Mantua-Makers, and some theatrical Nymphs; but he soon moved in a higher Sphere of Gallantry; Princesses, Dutcheffes, Marchionesses, and many other Ladies of Distinction courted his
Fa-

[11]

Favours, and sacrificed their Reputations for the Pleasure which he afforded them.

Of all his high Conquests none made so much Noise, or did him so much Honour as those of two Princesses * generally esteemed the two handsomest and most accomplished Women in *France*, and to whose united Interest (contrary to the usual Practice in the Case of Rivalship) he owed his Fortune and future Grandeur.

Tho' it was looked upon by Persons who were acquainted with

* C——i and C——n.

the Characters and Delicacy of the two Princeſſes, as a very extraordinary Thing, that they not only united their Interests in Favour of the Count, but were likewise in perfect Friendship and close Correspondence, even when their Hearts were most deeply smitten; yet this Harmony and Union, unprecedented as it was, and surprizing to the whole World, gave however less Cause of Wonder than to see that the old *Cardinal de Fleury*, whose Heart was divided between the two Princeſſes, and hated the Count as a favoured Rival, yet, with all the Warmth and seeming Sincerity of a real Friend, did the old Prelate procure him first a Regiment and a handsome Pension annexed to it; next, the Cross of
St.

St. *Louis* before the Time, and at last the Cordon Blue, with Augmentation of Pension; from all which it may be easily conjectured, that since Love had the Power of making an old, cunning, vindictive Priest so far sacrifice his Resentment, as to serve a hated Rival, it might make the two rival Ladies live in a good Correspondence, and only vie with one another in serving the Darling of their Hearts; who had, it must be owned, superior Talents in conducting his Amours, and the Secret of making every one of them believe, from no equivocal Proofs, that he was wholly wrapt up in her superior Charms. In this Round of Pleasure did our happy Count move for a considerable Time in great Favour
with

with his Master, in spite of all the Attempts of the Princes of the Blood, the legitimated Princes, and the *Noailles* Faction, and in full Fruition of the two charming, happy, rival Ladies; but as Sweet without a Mixture of Sour is not to be expected in our Cup of Life, nor Mortals so happy as to enjoy a permanent Felicity in this World, so the prosperous Gale, which had drove him with full Sails for some Time, turned at last quite cross, and made him lose a delicious Prize, to the Possession whereof he passionately aspired; but found the Forts of Virtue so impregnable, that after a close Siege for three Months, he was disgracefully obliged to abandon the Enterprize, under the Tortures and
An-

Anguish of a violent Passion for a charming, but virtuous Object.

This Heroine, this *Lucretia*, (*rara avis in Gallia*) was Daughter to one Mrs. *Vimont*, a Widow, who kept a Mercer's Shop in St. *Dennis's* Street. The Count, having Occasion to buy something in this Shop, happened to see Mrs. *Vimont's* Daughter, and the Moment he threw his Eyes on her, he became her Slave.

One would have thought that it was impossible Love should make such a sudden and deep Impression upon a Man of his roving Disposition, but he who made a Jest of Flames and Darts, and wounded Hearts, was now
me-

metamorphosed from the gay, sprightly, young Libertine, to a downright romantic, whining Lover, often resolving, in the Height of his delirious Fits, to sacrifice all Views of Grandeur to the Possession of this lovely Creature, whose Image was so deeply imprinted in his Heart, that he could speak of nothing, think of nothing, but the lovely *Mariette*.

Diffimulation was his Aversion, and tho' he had often found that in a Court where it is so necessary a Talent, self Preservation should teach the Practice of it, to avoid laying ourselves open to the Advantages which the envious are ready to reap from the Knowledge of our real Sentiments, yet he despised

despised all such political Maxims, treating them as low and mean Arts, fit for none but servile, cringing Slaves, who make no Scruple to advance their Fortunes at the Expence of sacrificing all that is valuable in the religious or moral Character; and indeed it must be owned, (whether it may speak his Praise or his Weakness as a Courtier, I submit to the Judgment of others that in the whole Course of his Life, he was remarkable for his Sincerity, which often furnished his Enemies with a plausible Handle to lessen him, upon what they called his Indiscretion, in the Esteem of his Master.

It may easily be imagined, that as his Character was what has
been

been just now represented, he must soon think of a Confident, to whom he could impart the melancholy Situation of his Mind, which is a Sort of Ease to a Love-sick Heart, and as I happened to be at his House when he came Home ready to drop down under a heavy Load of Love: My Friend, said he, with a very deep Sigh, I'm ruin'd, undone, for ever undone! My Heart, my Freedom, all my happy Days are gone! Why did my cruel Stars throw me in the Way of the most charming Creature that ever Nature fram'd! If she's Virtuous, I'll forsake the World and turn Monk to avoid the Persecution of my former Female Acquaintances, for whom I have no longer the least Inclination,

nation; and if she yields to the Temptation, I shall hate myself for being the Author of her Ruin; if her Virtue triumphs, what then? shall I marry her? No, Fruition cools Desire, Wedlock to me is frightful, I should look upon her as the Author of my Slavery, turn indifferent, and perhaps hate her at last. Let me see — well — 'tis resolved — I'll have her on my own Terms, and grace my numerous Conquests with the Addition of this delicious Morsel. I will begin my Attack in the Epistolary Way, and make my Advances afterwards as Prudence and my Experience may direct. She goes to Mass at the *Carmelites* in *St. Dennis's Street* every Morning at Nine o'Clock. You must, added
he

he smiling, be my Mercury, and for your Encouragement, as I know how fond you are of adventure Writing, I will not only give you Copies of what Letters I write or receive, but likewise furnish you with proper Materials, in Case you should some Time or other take it into your Head to favour the World with my Amours. 'Tis needless, continued he, to give you any Directions how you may know this Angel. If you only can raise your Fancy to the imaginary *Venus's* of Poets and Painters, you'll find that they are only faint Copies of the real *Mariette*, and among ten Thousand you must directly say, THIS IS SHE: However, as you may not see with my Eyes, to prevent Mistakes,

takes, you must ask if she is not my Goddess, before you deliver the Letter, so to work he went and wrote what follows, and of which I took an exact Copy.

To Mademoiselle MARIETTE
VIMONT.

“ **T** H O’ you may with
 “ Justice, Mademoiselle,
 “ flatter yourself of having made
 “ your Peace with Heaven this
 “ Morning for a few *Peccadillos*,
 “ with which your delicate and
 “ scrupulous Conscience may pos-
 “ sibly accuse you, yet let me
 “ tell you, that To-morrow, when
 “ prostrate at the Foot of the Al-
 “ tar, you’ll have more serious
 “ Work upon your Hands, Sins
 of

“ of a deeper Dye to repent of,
 “ than ever you were guilty of
 “ before. Methinks I see Marks
 “ of Surprise in your lovely Coun-
 “ tenance, at so unexpected a
 “ Charge, but if it be true, as it
 “ certainly is, that you have
 “ robbed your Fellow Creature
 “ of all that is dear and precious
 “ in Life; are you not guilty
 “ of a heinous Crime, for which
 “ no Attonement can be made,
 “ but in the Way of Restitution
 “ of what you have stolen, or an
 “ Equivalent made up out of
 “ what is your own Property?
 “ Your Crime, Miss, be it known
 “ to you, is your having robbed
 “ me of that Peace and Tranquil-
 “ lity I formerly enjoyed, and of
 “ having enflamed my Heart
 “ with racking Tortures, to which
 “ it

“ it was hitherto a Stranger. I
 “ think it is just now precisely
 “ seven Hours, since I first had
 “ the Pleasure, or rather, I may
 “ say, Misfortune to see you,
 “ and in these few Hours I be-
 “ lieve in my Conscience, I have
 “ suffer’d more than a Galley-
 “ Slave in tugging seven Years
 “ at his Oar; how ought I then,
 “ think you, to curse my Fate
 “ and your bewitching Beauty,
 “ but instead of that, I take a
 “ Sort of Pleasure in my Misery,
 “ not doubting but, sooner or
 “ later, my Happiness will be pro-
 “ portionably heightened, when
 “ Pity prevails with you to bless
 “ me with it.

“ ‘There’s one infallible Way,
 “ my charming little Robber, to
 “ bring

“ bring Things to rights again,
 “ and upon the Square : Let us
 “ exchange Hearts, and if I don’t
 “ use yours with that Tenderness
 “ which such a precious Jewel
 “ deserves, I give you Leave to
 “ use mine with all the Rigour
 “ that a just Resentment can in-
 “ spire. As I am the injured
 “ Person, without any Provoca-
 “ tion, you are obliged in ho-
 “ nour to listen to any reasonable
 “ Proposal, and if you reject the
 “ Offers of a friendly Compro-
 “ mising, at least you ought to
 “ let me know your Reasons :
 “ This I expect from your Justice,
 “ as you may expect, in the pre-
 “ sent unhappy Situation of my
 “ Mind, to have a Letter every
 “ Hour of the Day popping in
 “ upon you, if you are so cruel
 “ as

“ as to detain my Heart your
 “ Prisoner, without letting me
 “ know what Usage you intend
 “ to give it, or how long you
 “ design to keep it from its un-
 “ fortunate Owner, the”

Count SAXE.

I went next Morning with this
 Letter, and I had no great Dif-
 ficulty among the Crowd of La-
 dies that were in the Church, to
 find out the Person to whom it
 was address'd, who was, to speak
 the Truth, one of the most charm-
 ing Creatures I ever saw in my
 Life, and had such a Vivacity
 and Sweetness in her Eyes, so
 lovely a Complexion, so admir-
 able Features, and so genteel a
 Shape, that it was no easy Matter
 C for

for any Man to look at her with Indifference. After Mafs was over, I followed her Mother and her, and coming close up to the young Lady, Madam, said I, will you excuse the Rudeness of a Stranger, who finds himself under a Necessity of asking you a Question in the publick Street; is your Name Miss *Vimont*? It is, Sir, answered she; then give me Leave replied I, to deliver this Letter, putting it into her Hand; upon which she looked at her Mother, I suppose to consult with her, whether she was to receive it or not. As I believe, said the Mother, that my Daughter has no Correspondence which she will keep a Secret from me, and as it is not quite proper for a young Girl to receive a Letter from a Gentle-

Gentleman she has not the Honour to know, particularly in the Street, I beg, Sir, you will take the Trouble to go to my House, which is but a Step from this, and there we will see what this Letter contains, and if it requires an Answer.

When we were got into the House and seated, Mrs. *Vimont* broke open the Count's Letter, and read it softly to herself, and after she had glanced it over, she held it out to her Daughter, and smiling told her, *Mariette*, the Count *Saxe*, if you'll believe him, has made you a Present of his Heart, and cannot be easy 'till you restore it, or give him your own in Exchange. If his Situation be really such as he represents

C 2

it,

it, I join with him in Opinion, that you ought to make Restitution, or a fair Exchange, and I have such Confidence in your Judgment, that I will entirely leave the Thing to your own Determination and Choice, and therefore while the office is preparing, go to your Chamber, and write the Count an Answer to his obliging Letter. Tho' a visible Reluctance to the reading or answering this Letter, appeared in her Looks, yet she obeyed her Mother's Commands, and return'd with the following Billet, which the Mother, after reading, gave me open, and would by no Means allow it to be sealed, tho' I begged it might.

To

To the Count SAXE.

S I R,

“ **M**ANY of my Sex would
 “ think it a far greater
 “ Crime to answer your Letter
 “ than that with which you are
 “ merrily pleased to charge me,
 “ but I am not so scrupulous; be-
 “ sides, I think a Woman ought
 “ to let a Man know, otherwise
 “ than by her Silence, that as she
 “ looks upon all Declarations from
 “ one of your Rank to proceed
 “ from Whim, or bad Designs, she
 “ will equally guard against both;
 “ so that whether your Distress
 “ be real or feigned, you must

C 3

“ never

“ never expect the proposed Cure
“ from

Your humble Servant,

MARIETTE VIMONT.

Short and pithy, cried the Count, upon reading this Billet, but I have seen as proud Beauties as your Ladyship humbled before now. The Dutchess of B—y was in the right when she said, that a Man who knew how to make the proper Use and Dissection of the Word *Or, vi, & temps* †, and could apply it according to the Rules of Art, would always sooner or later find Access to a Lady's Heart, tho' furrounded with all

† Money, Merit, and Time.

the

the Ramparts that Virtue, Pride, or Constitution can rear up. I will therefore, added he, raise up such a Battery, and contrive so many Stratagems against this proud little Heart, that I will either melt it into Softness, or break my own, which will, I doubt, be the Consequence of an obstinate Defence on her Part. A virtuous Disposition, supported by a regular Education, the constant Admonitions of spiritual Directors, and that high Value which the fair Sex generally put upon their own dear Persons, are Obstacles not easily to be surmounted; however, as Difficulties raise our Ideas of the Happiness we aim at, and as it is in the Nature of our Sex to love Resistance in the other, and to despise an easy Conquest,

so am I prompted with far more fierce Desires to seduce this coy Girl, than if I thought that she would be easily persuaded to her undoing, to which I will apply my whole Study; and if she can stand the fiery Trial, I will give her Virtue its just Praise, look upon her as the Ornament of her Sex, and convert my loose Desires into a reverential Esteem. I find she must be ply'd in a quite different Manner from what I first intended. I must act the platonick Lover, creep into her Heart under the Mask of Friendship, and raise myself, in that Character, so high in her Esteem, that she will at last of herself take a Trip to the Island of Love, and meet me with equal Desires: What do you think, *Monbrun*,
con-

continued he, looking stedfastly on me, of my Scheme? I desire your Opinion without Reserve, or any Regard to mine.

Since you call upon me, said I, to give you my Thoughts of your Project, I shall freely own, that I greatly admire it, not so much for the Artfulness of the Contrivance, as the Wickedness of its Author; for laying aside Religion as a Thing quite out of the Question, can a Man of the least Humanity or Compassion, wantonly resolve to make a lovely innocent Creature wretched while she lives, and all truly to satisfy a brutal Passion that he has a thousand Opportunities of gratifying, without the monstrous Crime of Seduction, under the

Cloke of Friendship and Esteem, which he must basely profess to make sure of his Prize. How often have I heard you exclaim against the Barbarity of the Duke of *R——u* in a similar Case, and deplore the unhappy Fate of the lovely *Finette*, abandoned by her Family, despised by her Acquaintances, deprived of her Reason, and condemn'd to a gloomy Cell in a Mad-House, for the Remainder of her wretched Life: A Man who can, without Horror, look upon himself as the Author of such a tragical Adventure, must have a Tyger's Heart; and I dare say his Grace, tho' as little troubled as any Man in *France*, with Scruples of Conscience, must now and then be shocked with the Thoughts of this
un-

unhappy Girl's Fate ; and pray, Sir, what other, if not worse, may be expected to attend your Goddess, should her pretended Friend strip her of her Virtue ? As you are naturally of a generous and compassionate Temper, 'tis ten to one but her Injuries would haunt you Night and Day, and you yourself become your own Tormentor ; and therefore I conclude, that upon a fair State of the short-liv'd Happiness, and long future Misery, that must attend the Accomplishment of your Designs, you'll find it your Interest, as well as Honour to relinquish them. Who could ever have expected, said he laughing, such a grave moral Harangue from a Fellow, who to my certain Knowledge, is

C 6

a greater

a greater Rake than myself? If it be really Compassion that makes thee *Mariette's* Champion, I shall conclude, that thou hast run thyself out of Breath in the Career of Gallantry, and can go no farther; and that having no Power to be longer wicked thyself, thou art turned Monitor, and a mighty consciencious Gentleman, whose righteous Spirit is sorely grieved with the Wickedness of the Age: Such a sudden Conversion deserves my serious Consideration, and 'tis not impossible but I shall find, in the sage Moralist, a disguised Rival, who wants to frighten me with a Train of ugly Consequences attending my Project of seducing a virtuous Girl, with no other View, but to get rid of me
as

as a Competitor, the better to carry on Designs attended with Circumstances that render them still more wicked than mine; for, according to thy laudable Custom with other poor Girls, whom thou hast deluded, if it be true that *Mariette's* Charms have reached thy Heart, as well as mine, thou'lt make her a most solemn and formal Promise of Marriage, written and signed with thy Blood, as thou didst with the Countess of S——e's Cousin, and perhaps prevail with the innocent and unsuspecting *Mariette*, to be satisfied with this *Mariage de Conscience*, i. e. Marriage of Conscience, 'till such Time as an old covetous rich Uncle, to whom thou art Heir, drops into his Grave, and then thou'lt lead her
to

to the Altar, and confirm thy former Vow in the Sacramental Way prescribed by the Church ; but I will endeavour, if I find that my Conjecture proves true, to inform the Lady of thy Character, and if she trusts after that to thy Oaths and Promises, she deserves the Fate which I suppose thou art preparing for her ; however, thou shalt continue to be my Confident and Mercury, 'till such Time as I can no longer doubt of thy being my Rival, and if I cannot prevent thy Happiness in her Possession, by letting her know thy Practice, I shall very probably do it by cutting thy Throat ; upon which he rose from his Seat, went into his Closet, and told me as he was entering, I am going to write a second Letter to
our

our common Mistress, which I shall shew you before it is sealed, and I suppose it will be no disagreeable Employment for you to be the Bearer.

I was extremely piqued at some of the Count's satyrical Expressions, which he uttered with such a solemn and serious Air, that I could not doubt of his being in earnest; and therefore I resolved to ask him when he returned, if he was serious in what he had said? and if he answered that he was, I intended not only to refuse being the Bearer of his Letter, but to express my Resentment of his Usage in such Terms as would set him upon his high Horse, and perhaps end in a tilting Bout.

In

In half an Hour he came out of the Cloſet, and preſenting me the Letter, See, ſaid he ſmiling, what ſilly Fools Love makes of us pretty Fellows? Sir, answered I, with ſome Marks, I believe, of Anger in my Countenance, before I look at your Letter, I muſt beg Leave to aſk you one Queſtion; Was you in jeſt or earneſt in the very pretty Picture, you were juſt now pleaſed to draw of me? In earneſt to be ſure, cry'd he; Why then answered I with Fire, I tell you, in earneſt, that I will be no more your Letter-Bearer; and tho' I have no Royal Blood in my Veins, yet as I am a Gentleman, it is no Diſhonour for a Sovereign's natural Son to meaſure his Sword with mine. I own, continued I, that
in

in my younger Years I was guilty of a heinous Crime, into which I was hurried by an ungovernable Passion, and for which I have since passed many wretched Days and Nights ; but as I communicated that unhappy Affair to you, in all its Circumstances, not forgetting the Offer I made to the injured Persons, Parents and Relations, to make her my lawful Wife ; I think it is barbarous and cruel in you, not only to upbraid me with that *faux pas*, and mad Trick of Youth, but even to make use of it as a Handle to defeat my pretended Designs upon your Mistress. As the Case now stands betwixt us, I shall not give myself the Trouble of informing you, whether I am your Rival or not ; Time will clear
up

up that Doubt, and I have now only to add, that you would chuse your Weapons, Time, and Place.

Bravely spoke I swear, cry'd he, I love a Man of Spirit with all my Heart, and I will with Joy give you the Satisfaction you desire; but as neither you nor I are at present over-loaded with Cash, and that it is not impossible but one or other of us may get an unlucky Thrust through the Guts, it will be necessary that the Survivor have a Purse to help him to get out of Harm's Way; for which Reason, if you please, I will make it my Business this Day to provide some hundred *Louis d'ors*; besides, we must consult together, and contrive Things so, that our Affair

fair shall have the Appearance of a Rencounter, and pass for such, otherwise the Person who has the good Fortune to come off the Field alive, must bid Adieu to *France* as long as he lives: but added he laughing, let me beg of you, before we meet Sword in Hand, to do me the Favour, which is, to be the Bearer of this Letter.——I could not help smiling at this whimsical Proposal, but as I was now a little cooler than at first, I consented, and promised to send the Answer, if any were given, by my Servant; and as he insisted upon my reading his Letter, and of taking a Copy of it, here it is Word for Word.

To Miss VIMONT.

“ WERE I to pretend, my
 “ dear Miss, that your
 “ Charms inspire my Breast with
 “ no other Sentiments but what
 “ flow from Esteem and Respect,
 “ I should deceive you, for I
 “ own they are of a warmer and
 “ more impetuous Nature; and
 “ yet, fierce as they are, were it
 “ in my Power to gratify them
 “ in the Way that Love pre-
 “ scribes, my own Honour would
 “ join with your Virtue to guard
 “ your Person against the unhal-
 “ lowed Act; and thus, while
 “ my Heart is enflamed with the
 “ most violent Desires that Pas-
 “ sion can inspire, my Reason so
 “ far triumphs, that I should
 “ think

“ think myself happy in the Cha-
 “ racter of your Friend and Pla-
 “ tonick Lover ; and if my Eyes,
 “ when blessed with your Com-
 “ pany, survey your lovely Per-
 “ son with Glances that express
 “ the high Emotions of my
 “ Heart, my Tongue shall utter
 “ nothing that can offend your
 “ Delicacy, or give you the least
 “ Occasion to upbraid me with
 “ Breach of Promise. Under
 “ these Restrictions, which I will
 “ most religiously observe, I
 “ hope the lovely Miss *Vimont*
 “ will give me Leave to visit her
 “ now and then, in order to as-
 “ sist me in the grand and hard
 “ Task, of bringing my poor
 “ distressed Heart to that State
 “ of Tranquility, which it for-
 “ merly enjoyed. This Favour,
 “ I

“ I think, cannot well be refused,
 “ unless you rather chuse to con-
 “ tinue in the Rank of Slave than
 “ of Friend to the unfortunate

Count SAXE.

I went with this Letter, and
 met with a very cold Reception;
 however, as I pressed hard for an
 Answer, she at last complied, but
 desired I would acquaint my Friend
 to give over Thoughts of teasing
 her with his real or imaginary Pas-
 sion, for she was fully resolved
 neither to receive his Letters, nor
 Visits, even in the Character he
 proposed to assume; because she
 did, by no Means, think him a
 proper Person to make a Friend
 of, and far less a Lover.

I begged she would seal her Letter, but she said it was needless, adding with a Smile, that as she did not doubt but that I had seen the Count's Letters to her, it was but just I should see her Answers to him, and here's a Copy of the last he ever had from her.

To the Count S A X E.

“ **T**HO’ the World, Sir,
 “ should not censure me
 “ (a Thing hardly to be expect-
 “ ed) for receiving you as a Visi-
 “ tor, yet when I compare my
 “ own low Station in Life, to
 “ your elevated Rank, I think
 “ the Public, were I to do it,
 “ has a just Right to blame my
 “ Con-

“ Conduct, for which Reason I
 “ must refuse your Request, and
 “ at the same Time beg you’ll
 “ send me no more Letters,
 “ otherwise you must expect to
 “ have them returned without
 “ being opened or read by”

MARIETTE VIMONT.

The Virtue and Prudence of this lovely Girl, joined to her personal Charms, made such an Impression upon me, that had my Fortune been such that I could have made my Addresses to her in an honourable Way, I should have thought myself happy in such a Spouse; but I was not rich enough to marry a Girl that could not be expected to have any considerable Fortune. My first Mis-

2

for-

fortune had effectually cured me of the fashionable Crime of debauching young Girls, and tho' the incomparable Miss *Vimont* had Eyes that darted Love, and Temptation on her Bosom, yet my Heart stood its Ground; and I rejoiced to think that the Count would not prevail, not as his Rival, but as a Well-wisher to the Cause of Virtue, from which all his Merit and Art could not tempt her to deviate in the least. In taking my leave, I told her, that tho' it could scarcely be expected that a young Fellow would approve of such Sentiments of Honour and Virtue as she seemed to be inspired with, yet I would freely own, that a Disappointment to the Count was what I rather wished, than that he should triumph in the Conquest of her

D Heart:

Heart : His Passion is indeed violent, continued I, and I am persuaded that this Letter will be a Dagger to his Heart ; yet as I consider, on the one hand, that Time and Absence, with the Assistance of Company and Diversions, will probably in a short Time, bring a Man of his roving, and, I may say, changeable Temper, particularly in Amours and Gallantry, to his former State of Tranquility ; and, on the other, that a Lady's Reputation once lost, is for ever lost ; 'tis impossible to be under any Difficulty which Side of the Question a Man, who has the least Pretensions to Honour, or even common Humanity, ought to take ? For my part, in the present Case, tho' he were much more my Friend than he is, I should think it base
and

and ungenerous to contribute to his Success even by Wishes, and far less Actions, tho' not from the Motive he imagines, for you must know that he firmly believes I am your Slave as well as he ; and yet, by a Caprice peculiar to himself, he trusts his Letters to the Man whom he looks upon as a Rival. I own Miss, added I, that you have Charms to conquer a hundred Hearts like mine, and that 'tis no easy Matter to guard against their Power ; I will even go farther and tell you, that were my Situation such as I could wish it, I should think myself the happiest Man in the World to possess such a Treasure ; but as I cannot pretend to that Felicity in an honourable Way, I have too great a Regard for you to pretend

to it in any other, and shall therefore only wish that you may be as happy as you deserve ; and so said, I directly left this lovely Maid, without giving her Time to make any Answer.

I went from thence streight to my Lodging, and dispatched my Servant with the Lady's Letter to the Count ; who was, no doubt, waiting for it with great Impatience ; and the Reader may judge how agreeable it was by the following Billet which he sent me.

To Mr. MONBRUN.

“ **H**AD you been my Friend,
 “ Sir, you would have rather sent me a Halter, or any
 “ thing that would have done my
 “ Business at once, than the slow
 “ Poison

“ Poison of such an unkind, cruel,
 “ Letter ; but I suppose (as I
 “ make no doubt but the Con-
 “ tents were communicated to
 “ the happy Mr. *Monbrun* my
 “ Rival) you are just now singing
 “ a *Te Deum* for your Victory and
 “ my Defeat ; but before this is
 “ complete, you have one thing
 “ still more to do, and the Tryal
 “ may be made To-morrow
 “ Morning, at Seven o’Clock, at
 “ which Hour I shall be at the
 “ *Thulleries* in the Alley of Sighs,
 “ and from thence we can walk
 “ through the *Elysian Fields* to
 “ the Wood of *Bologne*, where we
 “ may without Interruption settle
 “ our Affairs : I shall expect you,
 “ and I am,

Yours,

C. S.

D 3

I

I went next Morning to the Place appointed, and happened to be there a few Minutes before the Count, who, on coming up, told me, That he saw I was punctual where Honour called. I never doubted, continued he, of your Courage, and it gives me a sort of Satisfaction to see that I have, in a favoured Rival, a Man of Spirit and Resolution ; but you must not expect to obtain the Prize so long as there's a Drop of Blood in my Veins : Let us take a Walk to the most private Part of the Wood, and there offer up a bloody Sacrifice to the Honour of our Goddess. As we were going through the *Elysian Fields*, the Count of a sudden stopt, and looking on me with Eyes that spoke a disquieted Mind,

Mind, *Monbrun*, said he, before we go farther, let me ask you one Question, to which I expect a sincere Answer, upon your Honour, let the Consequence be what it will. I remained for a Minute or two silent, being at a Loss to think what he meant by engaging my Honour to answer his Question with Sincerity : Sir, said I at last, I never remember to have given you any Occasion to doubt of my Sincerity, in answering any serious Question put to me by you, or any other Man ; nor can I imagine what are your Motives to use such Precautions upon the Question you have to ask ; but without endeavouring to penetrate into the Mystery, let the Question be what it will, I promise you upon my Honour, that my Answer

D 4

shall

shall be agreeable to my real Sentiments. Very well, replied he, Are you then really in Love with *Mariette* and my Rival ? Before I answer this Question, I must, said I, ask you another, and have your Answer with the same Sincerity that you expect from me. Agreed, cry'd he. If I should, replied I, answer No to your Question, Will you not imagine that the Dispute which we are now going to decide Sword in hand, makes me answer in the Negative ? No, upon my Honour, said he, I shall not imagine that I or any Man living will make you afraid to draw your Sword, where your Honour is engaged. Well then answered I, you may be assured that I neither have, or ever had any Inclination to *Mariette* other than I have for any Woman of Merit.

Merit. I will, however, own, that I think her's so superior to most of her Sex's, that were I a Man of Fortune, I believe, I should be tempted to take a Leap into Matrimony with her, if she accepted of me as a Husband; but as for attempting to make her a Mistress, (a thing which I firmly believe neither you nor I, nor any Man upon Earth can effect) I would sooner undergo the Fate of *Abelard*, than be the Author of her Ruin; and I would gladly hope that when you consider, on the one Hand, with what a virtuous Mind and amiable Person Heaven has blessed this charming Creature; and on the other, how little Probability there is, that with all the Arts and Stratagems that the Malice of Devils or Men can contrive, it

will be all, or I am grossly mistaken, lost Labour; for without Exaggeration, she seems to me to be all Angel, without the least Mixture of Humanity, tho' she has Flesh and Blood as other Women, but no Passions strong enough to struggle with a Mind so well fortified by Religion and Virtue: If you are nevertheless resolved, at all Hazards, to pursue this wicked, and, I think, impracticable Design, go on, but expect no farther Services, nor Assistance, in any Shape, from your humble Servant.

All the while I spoke the Count was mighty attentive, and remained some Minutes after I had done with his Eyes fixed on the Ground: At last, as one awaked out of a Dream, Right Reverend Father
Monbrun,

Monbrun, said he, your pious Exhortation has not only opened my Eyes with respect to your Character, but likewise frightened me with the Picture of my own. I hope with the Assistance of your farther Heavenly Admonitions, I shall be able to surmount the carnal Desires with which this bewitching Girl has enflamed me ; but before you preach any more, let us get back (for I think we have no further Occasion to go to the Wood) to the Alley of Sighs in the *Thulleries*, where, I hope, fortified by the Continuation of your devout Remonstrances, I shall with a last Sigh, accompanied perhaps with a tender Tear, give up my favourite Scheme, to the immortal Honour of Father *Monbrun*, who has done more than all the Sons.

of *Loyola* and *Jansenius* put together, could have effected. You may give me, said I smiling, what Title you please ; I shall think myself happy, if I have contributed to make you relinquish a Design extravagant as well as dishonourable. We then walked on till we entered the Gardens, observing a profound Silence, and even continued in our Taciturnity for some Minutes after we were seated on a Bank in the Alley of Sighs : At last the Count with a very heavy one indeed, thus spoke :

This plaguy Girl sticks hard to my Heart, and yet I find I must drive her from it ; not so much, I confess, from a pious or honourable Motive, as from the Dread of plunging myself still deeper in
the

the Gulph, without Hopes of Pity or Assistance from the cruel Fair. I foresee that I shall have a very difficult Task to get the better of this unhappy Attachment; and tho' the Remedy I propose be rather worse than the Disease, I can think of none other that will more effectually bring about my Cure, and therefore I resolve from this Moment to begin my Operations. I shall expect you *holy Monitor*, at the Hour of Dinner, that you may see it is none of my Fault, if I don't get myself soon brought to the Situation I was in before I saw this Heart-breaking Creature. I shall at our next meeting let you know my Scheme, which, I'm hopeful, will meet with your Approbation ; and in so saying we parted. I went to pass an Hour or
two

two at the Coffee-house, and he, I suppose, to some of his old cast-off Mistresses.

At the usual Hour of Dinner, I went to his House, where I found the Count *de F——e*, the Marquis *d'O——l*, and the Chevalier *de M——r*, all Musquetaires, who had come to dine with the Count without Invitation, a Thing common in *Paris* among Friends.

The surprizing and unexpected Retreat of the Marshal *d'E——s*, at that Time, to a Convent, where he resolved to pass the Remainder of his Days, was the general Subject of Conversation at Court and in Town, and People reasoned upon it very differently. Our Politicians ascribed it to the Duke of
N——s

N---s being preferred to him in a Government, which they were both soliciting; and the *Jansenist* Clergy, whom he favoured, added it to the Number of the miraculous Conversions wrought in those Days at the Sepulchre of the *Abbé Paris*, to which Curiosity had led the Marshal; but whatever was the real Motive of this Nobleman's forsaking the World, and shutting himself up within the Walls of a Cloyster; his Family and Relations were not at all displeased, because he was no longer in a Condition to support his Interest at Court.

For my Part, said the Marquis *d'O---*, tho' it may be supposed, as I am his near Relation, that I may be better acquainted with his Motives of Retreat than other
People,

People, I can only tell you that when I went to make him a Visit, he excused himself from seeing me, and sent me Word by the Prior, that if I came there with an Intention to dissuade him from passing his Days in that Place, as several of his Friends and Relations had already done, it was to no Purpose, his Resolution being settled and unalterable ; and if I had any Business to communicate to him which concerned myself or my Family, I might commit it to Paper, and I should be sure to have his Answer.

In a Day or two after I wrote him a long Letter with all the Arguments I could muster up against his depriving his Family and Relations of his Protection
and

and Advice, at a Time when they had so much Occasion for both ; but instead of a direct and categorical Answer to my Arguments, here's what he sent me ; [*palling a Paper out of his Pocket*] and as it is not very long, you shall hear what it contains ; and I think I can give it no other Title than *The Marshal's Motives for Retreat.*

“ **T**HE silent Virtues of a
 “ good Man in Solitude,
 “ are more amiable than all the
 “ noisy Honours of active Life.

“ From the perpetual Necessity
 “ of consulting the Animal Facul-
 “ ties, in our Provision for the
 “ present Life, arises the Difficul-
 “ ty of withstanding their Impul-
 “ ses, even in Cases where they
 “ ought

“ ought to be of no Weight ; for
 “ the Objects of Sense strike un-
 “ sought, its Motions are instan-
 “ taneous, we are accustomed to
 “ follow their Directions, and
 “ therefore often submit to the
 “ Sentence without examining the
 “ Authority of the Judge.

“ Thus it appears upon a Phi-
 “ losophical Estimate, that sup-
 “ posing the Mind, at any cer-
 “ tain Time, in an Equipoise
 “ between the Pleasures of this
 “ Life, and the Hopes of Futu-
 “ rity, present Objects falling more
 “ frequently into the Scale, would
 “ in Time preponderate; and that
 “ our Regard for an invincible
 “ State would grow every Mo-
 “ ment weaker, till at last it
 “ would lose all its Activity, and
 “ become

“ become absolutely without Ef-
 “ fect.

“ To prevent this dreadful E-
 “ vent, the Ballance is put into
 “ our own Hands, and we have
 “ Power to transfer the Weight
 “ to either Side. The Motives to
 “ a Life of Holiness are infinite,
 “ not less than the Favour or An-
 “ ger of Omnipotence, not less
 “ than Eternity of Happiness or
 “ Misery. But these can only in-
 “ fluence our Conduct, as they
 “ gain our Attention, which the
 “ Business or Diversion of the
 “ World are always calling off by
 “ contrary Attractions.

“ The great Art therefore of
 “ Holiness, and the End for which
 “ all the Rites of Religion seem to
 “ be

“ be instituted, is the perpetual
 “ Renovation of the Motives to
 “ Virtue by a voluntary Employ-
 “ ment of our Mind in the Con-
 “ templation of its Excellence,
 “ its Importance, and its Necessi-
 “ sity ; which in proportion as
 “ they are more frequently and
 “ more willingly revolved, gain a
 “ more forcible and more perma-
 “ nent Influence, ’till in time they
 “ become the reigning Ideas, the
 “ standing Principals of Action,
 “ and the Test by which every
 “ thing proposed to the Judg-
 “ ment is rejected or approved.

“ To facilitate this Change of
 “ our Affections, it is necessary
 “ that we weaken the Tempta-
 “ tions of the World, by retiring
 “ at certain Seasons from it ; for
 “ its

“ its Influence arising only from
 “ its Presence, is much lessened,
 “ when it becomes the Object of
 “ solitary Meditation. A constant
 “ Residence amidst Noise and
 “ Pleasure inevitably obliterates
 “ the Impressions of Piety, and a
 “ frequent Abstraction of ourselves
 “ into a State where this Life,
 “ like the next, operates only up-
 “ on the Reason, will reinstate
 “ Religion in its just Authority,
 “ even without those Irradiations
 “ from above ; the Hope of which
 “ I have yet no Intention to with-
 “ draw from the Sincere and the
 “ Diligent.

“ This is that Conquest of the
 “ World and of ourselves which
 “ has always been considered as
 “ the Perfection of human Na-
 “ ture :

ture : And this is only to be
 “ obtained by fervent Prayer,
 “ steady Resolutions, and frequent
 “ Retirement from Folly and Va-
 “ nity, from the Cares of Avarice,
 “ and the Joys of Intemperance,
 “ from the lulling Sounds of de-
 “ ceitful Flattery, and the tempt-
 “ ing Sight of prosperous Wick-
 “ edness.”

Tho’ the Marshal’s Motives for
 Retreat, such as he traced them
 out in this Paper, were very co-
 gent and persuasive, yet little did
 we imagine that they should have
 produced the surprising Effect
 which they had on the Mind of the
 Chevalier *de M——r*, who hav-
 ing got a Copy of them, never
 rested ’till he threw himself into
 the same Convent where the Mar-
 shal

shal had retired ; and where, some time after, he put it out of his Power to have farther Commerce with the World, tho' he did not seem at the reading of this Paper to be more affected with it than the rest of us ; on the contrary, during Dinner and afterwards, he seemed to be the most gay and frolicksome of the Company, and in all he said and did kept perfectly up to the Character of *Musquetaire*, the Gentlemen of which Corps assume a sort of Right and Priviledge of being wilder, and more debauched, and greater Rakes than any of his Majesty's Household or Marching Regiments ; and to their Praise be it said, notwithstanding the Exactness of their Discipline, and the Vigilance of their Officers, there seldom passes

a Day without their being in some Scrape or other, and the Cause of one, is the Cause of the whole, which has often produced bloody Scenes in our Streets.

About an Hour after the Count's *Major Domo* came and whispered me that the Dinner was spoiling. I told the Company what he said, and we all agreed that the Count would be better pleased we should sit down to Table without him than that the Victuals should be spoiled; so it was ordered that the Dinner should be served, and the second Course was on the Table when the Count arrived.

When you know, Gentlemen,
said he upon his coming in, the
Reason

Reason of my not being more punctual to the Hour of Dinner, you will, I hope, excuse me, but as I am very hungry, we will, if you please, defer my Story, 'till we have dined; which we thought a very reasonable Proposal upon our own Accounts as well as his. For my Part, as I made no Doubt but that some condescending Fair's Favours were to be the Subject of our Entertainment, and that the Story told to the three young Fellows present would be known in a few Hours to the whole Body of the black and white *Musquetaires*, and consequently to the whole Town in two Days, I could have wished that the Count had chosen Persons of more Discretion as the Repositories of his amorous Adventures; but as Gallantry in this polite
E Country.

Country is carried on without any Mystery, and that even the greatest Part of our Ladies rather glory than are ashamed of passing for what in some Parts of the World less refined, would make them be despised as a Scandal to their Sex : Our Men are, in some Measure, intitled to gratify their Vanity in boasting of their Conquests, taking particular Care to name the Persons as well as every Circumstance of their Intrigues from Beginning to the End. Thus the Amours of the Metropolis, from the Highest to the Lowest, the Court not excepted, afford ample Matter of Conversation to all who are fond of Scandal ; and a Man who does not know that the Princess *C——n* is so complaisant as to tickle Cardinal *F——y's* Toes ;
that

that the Countess *M——r* disdains not the Drudgery of Whipping the old worn-out Marshal *C——e*, from his Lethargick State of Inactivity ; that the Marchioness de *P——e*, without *F———’s* wonderful Elixir, for reviving drooping Nature, would expose in vain all her Charms and Arts to rouse the languid Desires, and lifeless Parts of the Duke of *B——n* her one eyed Lover ; that the Archbishop of *R——n*, having a little of the *Italian* Gusto, takes a particular Pleasure in seeing half a dozen naked Boys tumbling over one another in a large Bathing Tub, which is a more agreeable Sight to this good Prelate, than so many *Venus’s* without Draperies ; that the Dukes of *E———n*, *R———u*, *R——n* and some

E. 2

others,

others, have come to an Agreement, signed and sealed before a Notary Publick, under a large Penalty, not to lie with their Wives for a certain Number of Years; and that their Ladies, to be revenged, have signed and sealed Contracts, with the same Formalities and Penalties, to take unto them Persons properly qualified to perform the Matrimonial Duties, which they are by that wild Whim of their Husbands deprived of; that my good Friend and Benefactor the Count *Saxe*, is tied down to personal Service and Attendance every Day of his Life; at 8 in the Morning to the Princess Dowager of *C—i*; at 10, the Princess *C——n*; at 11, the Dutchess of *E——n*; at 2 in the Afternoon, the Dutcheſſes
R——n

R——*u* and R——*n*, Day about by Turns ; at 5, the Marchionefs *de P—e*, and Madame *de St. E——e* Day about ; and from that Hour to 3 in the Morning, he makes his Rounds among eight or nine Ladies of inferior Classes ; so that he is deservedly stiled, *Le brave Conte a quatorze* ; i. e. *The brave Count of Fourteen* ; and in fine, a Man that is not fully informed not only of the Amours of Persons of Quality and Distinction, whether of the Sword or Robe, but likewise of the principal Citizens, inferior Clergy, including the Monastick Orders, is looked upon to be a Creature who has no Access to polite Company or Conversation. But the Reader I hope will excuse this little Digression, which I shall extend no

farther, but entertain him with the Count's Adventure, which I hope will make him laugh as it did us : And now I begin, desiring it may be remembred that the Count speaks, and the Servants are retired.

Gentlemen, before I proceed to the Narration of my Morning's Adventure, it will be necessary to let you know that I had made my Addresses some time ago to Miss *Ponsaint Pierre*, a Banker's Daughter, whose Vanity to be rank'd in the Class of Nobles, had made him purchase the Title of *Tresorier de France* ; i. e. *Treasurer of France*, at the Expence of a good round Sum to Madam *de Prie* the Duke of *Bourbon*'s Mistress. His Daughter is a sprightly Girl, tolerably Handsome,

some, maliciously witty, with a large Share of Vanity and Pride, being very easily persuaded to believe Protestations of Love, because she has a high Opinion of her own Merit : It was not long before I was pretty far advanced in her good Graces, and I imagined that nothing was wanting but a favourable Opportunity of getting what I aimed at ; but the Father, who had lived a considerable Time in *Spain*, and had contracted very much of the Jealousy peculiar to that Nation, told me, very bluntly, one Day, that it was by no Means proper his Daughter should keep up a Correspondence with a Man of my Rank and Station ; and that as her Reputation might be called in Question by the Frequency of my Visits, he had been

under a Neceſſity of giving her Orders not to receive any more. I told him I had too great a Regard for his Daughter, to do any Thing that might give Malice the leaſt Handle ; for which Reaſon I would rather deprive myſelf of the Pleaſure of her Company, than to give him or her the leaſt Uneaſineſs ; and that if he thought proper, I would then take a formal Leave of her in her own Apartment, to which he conſented.

You may believe, I complained much of her Father's Cruelty, and how miſerable I ſhould be in being deprived of the Pleaſure of ſeeing her. I was reſolved to make a bold Puſh for the laſt Favour ; and as the Preludes of
kiffing

kissing and squeezing her Hand, with some other Familiarities did not seem to offend, I at last became bolder, caught her in my Arms, and gently placed her upon the Bed; but instead of struggling or making any Resistance, she stretched out her Hand, pulled a Rope that hung by the Bed's Head, upon which a Bell at the Door of the Anti-Chamber rang pretty loud, so that her Maid came running, and I had only Time to jump out of the Bed before she appeared. *Betty*, said she, in a faint Voice, I was suddenly taken ill, and the Count was so kind as to carry me to my Bed: Now, Sir, added she, looking at me with an affected Smile, as I have a Person who can assist me, I hope you'll be so good as to retire with my Thanks,

for your seasonable Help in my Distress. I am only sorry, said I, that I had not an Opportunity of giving you more essential Proofs of my Zeal and Attachment ; and then left the Room cursing my Disappointment, and vowing Revenge.

For two Months I sent her every other Day a Letter by one Mrs. D———t, who under pretence of selling Trinkets for Ladies Toilets, carried *Billets-doux* and Assignations ; and is in great Reputation for her Ability in bringing Lovers together at her House, where they have all Conveniencies that can be desired.

Mademoiselle made no Difficulty of receiving my Letters, but all
D———t's

D——'s Rhetorick could not prevail with her to send any Answer till the Day before Yesterday, when she brought this Billet; which he pulled out of his Pocket, and gave me to read; and of which, as of all his other Letters, he allowed me to take Copies.

To Count SAXE.

“ **I** S it Love, Sir, or is it Re-
 “ venge, that prompts you to
 “ write me so many pretty Let-
 “ ters? As I am of a forgiving
 “ Temper myself, I am apt to
 “ believe that others are so too;
 “ and therefore I conclude that
 “ you are influenced by the for-
 “ mer, rather than the latter; for
 “ which Reason, and at the most
 “ urgent Intreaties of your faith-
 E 6 “ ful

“ ful female Mercury, I am re-
 “ solved to admit you once more
 “ into my Bed-room ; and for
 “ your Encouragement, be it
 “ known to you, that my Alarm
 “ Bell is broke.

“ My Father sets out after To-
 “ morrow at 11 o’Clock for *Fon-*
 “ *tainbleau*, and if seeing me will
 “ make you so happy as you pre-
 “ tend, by observing the Directi-
 “ ons which Mrs. *D——t* will
 “ give you, your Misery will soon
 “ be at an End.”

When I had read this Letter, I
 told the Company laughing, that
 as I intended, if I happened to live
 longer than the Count, to publish
 his Adventures, he had agreed
 not only to my taking Copies of
 all the Letters he wrote and re-
 ceived,

ceived, but likewise to furnish me with all proper Materials in his future Progress.

Ay, ay, cried he, as I am pretty easy who knows my Adventures while I am on this Side the Grave, their being published when I am dead and gone, will certainly give me no Manner of Trouble. This led us into a Chain of mighty serious and edifying Reflexions upon the Folly of those who make themselves wretched while they live, that Posterity may commemorate them with Applause ; but as I am not at present in the Humour of dipping into the digressive Way, I shall not trouble myself nor the Reader with putting down all the pretty Things that were said upon this Subject ;

Subject ; and had interrupted, at least, for a full Hour (by comparing this with the many other Madnernesses to which Mankind are liable) the Count's Story, which at last he thus continued.

When you and I, *Monbrun*, said he, turning to me, parted this Morning, I went directly to *D——t's*, who gave me the necessary Directions after our Chocolate and some Jellies, which the good Woman keeps for Gentlemen whose gallant Behaviour she is particularly interested ; and I observed them so punctually, and so successfully, that I got to Miss's Bed-room without being seen by any of the Servants ; and, to my great Surprise, found her Reading, with great Attention and
Composure,

Composure, *Seneca's* Morals. After the introductory Compliments, and a Profusion of Thanks on my Part, I went to secure the Entrance from Intruders, and that done flew on the Wings of Love to seize on my lovely, and I thought willing Victim. Soft and fair, Count, said she, with a languishing Look, which I ascribed to the last and faint Efforts of expiring Virtue, before we sign and seal our Treaty, some Preliminaries must first be settled; and these Words were scarce out of her Mouth, when we heard her Mother's Voice upon the Stair that led to her Apartment, and found that she was coming to speak to her Daughter. The Female Sex greatly exceeds ours in finding out Expedients upon a Pinch; she no sooner

sooner was alarmed with the Danger, than the Means of avoiding it, were by her fertile Imagination contrived ; while I was under the greatest Confusion, and should have remained undetermined till the good old Lady had made her Appearance, and then looked very silly, without being able to say how or why I was there. For Heaven's sake, cry'd the Belle, creep under the Bed 'till my Mother is gone, or I am for ever ruined and undone. With great Difficulty I got myself squeezed in, and as the Bed was very low, you may believe that I was in no easy Situation ; and the only Comfort I had to support me in this painful Posture, was the Hopes of a speedy Release, and the Satisfaction of seeing what passed in the Chamber.

Just as the old Lady was got to the Door and knocked, the Daughter opened it without discovering the least Symptoms of Discomposure, and with her *Seneca* in her Hand. *Mariette*, said she, you must dress yourself as speedily as possible, for the Cardinal *F——y* having been informed that you had an excellent Voice, has sent me Word that he will be here in an Hour to hear you sing, and accompany your Voice with your Harpsichord : I expect you will do your best to please his Eminence, for many Reasons; and that no Time may be lost, put on your Stays directly, and I will lace you myself; but first of all put on a clean Smock. Very well thought I, it is some Comfort at least

least, in my present Misery, to have the Satisfaction of viewing the upper Parts of Mademoiselle's Body, by and by I hope to glut my Eyes with Beauties now concealed.

By the Time she was dress'd, which was done with great Expedition, the Cardinal arrived, and the two Ladies went to receive him. I flattered myself that I was now to be released from my stifling Prison; but as bad Luck would have it, the waiting Maid came bouncing in, the Moment the Ladies were gone, and threw herself into an easy Chair, opposite to a large Glass, where she seemed highly delighted with seeing, in the Mirror, certain Parts of her Body which she could not otherwise
view

view so fully, nor so commodiously ; and she seemed to be so delighted with the Perspective, that a Valet de Chambre got close to the Back of the Chair ; and she knew nothing of his being so near, till she perceived him in the Glass, viewing what she so much admired herself. At first she seemed to be greatly affronted at what she called his Impudence ; but he stopped her Mouth with Kisses, and gave his Hands Liberty to rove where he thought proper. I thought the Scene would have been acted in the Place where they were ; but to my great Surprise and Grief, I was but at the Beginning of my Tortures, for this impudent young Dog got her in his Arms, and sowe came they both in the Bed, just above where I lay gasping for
Breath,

Breath, and the Canvas yielding to their Weight, I was so unmercifully squeezed, that I was often tempted to spoil their Sport by calling out, and had they remained but a Minute or two longer than they did, I must have done it, or held my Peace for ever ; for I had been so galloped upon that I was like to faint with Pain and Sweat; and at last indeed deprived of my Voice and Tongue, and positively ready to expire, when they both jumped out of the Bed ; this unconscionable Jade telling him, that if he had not gotten enough of romping this Morning, she was willing to give him his Revenge the same Afternoon ; but go down now, continued she, for fear you should be wanted, and I will go to my Chamber to set my

my Hair and Cap to rights. So away went they, and left me almost in the Agonies of Death ; however, by being eased of their Weight, and by getting my Head without the Bed, by which I got a little Air ; I recovered just so much Strength, as with much ado, to creep from under the Bed, and crawl upon all fours to the Table, where providentially stood a Bottle of Water, which was Nectar and Ambrosia, and recovered me so far as to be in a Condition to stand upon my Legs, and in a few Minutes to step gently down the back Stair into the Garden, the Way I had come in ; and having the Key of the Garden door that opened into another Street, I left Mademoiselle
chanting

chanting to her Cardinal, fully resolved to abandon my Design upon her Person, if she would not come to *D——t's*, or some such convenient Place.

I went to the first Tavern I could meet with, when a couple of Glasses of *Frontiniac*, with a little Repose, till a Hackney Coach was called, greatly revived my drooping Spirits; but if ever I am so caught again may I be condemned to Bedlam while I live.

The Count *de F——e*, and the Marquis *d'O——l*, were surprized that a Man of the Count's Vigour and strong Passions, could so precipitately, and even ingloriously abandon a Conquest that he was
so

so sure of, by keeping the Field of Battle a little longer. For my Part, said *F——e*, tho' I have a Body not capable of bearing much Fatigue, yet I would have stood a Squeezing for twenty-four Hours to have had the Pleasure of squeezing somebody else, before I had left that Room ; and I, cry'd *d'O——l*, should have been so pleased with the Dance of the amorous Couple above me, that I certainly should have kept Time with them below, at least in Imagination, which I would have directed towards the lovely *P——e*, in hopes of after realising. And my Opinion, said I, is, that the Mother's coming to the Daughter's Chamber, and the Count's Confinement under the Bed was a concerted Scheme, and I am the more
con-

confirmed in this Opinion, because I have Ground to believe that the Cardinal is not in Town. If this can be made appear, said the Count laughing, I am certainly bit, and I will as certainly be revenged ; but I must know whether the Cardinal was there or not, which was soon put almost out of Doubt by the Arrival of Mr. C———ⁿ an Officer in the Light Horse, and a Relation of his ; who upon being asked if his Eminence was in Town, answered, that he believed he neither was now, nor had been for some Time past in *Paris*, unless he had stole Incog. from *Iffy*. The Count bit his Lip, and said nothing ; and but for the Presence of this old Officer, who was now mighty devout, after having been a mighty great Rake, we should have

have made ourselves very merry,
and laugh'd heartily at the Count's
Adventure.

The three Musquetaires and
C——*n* were scarcely gone, when
enters D———*t* with an Epistle
from Miss P———*re*, of which
here follows an exact Copy.

“ I thought, Sir, you had been
“ a Man of more Gallantry and
“ Resolution, than to fly with
“ such Precipitation, when a lit-
“ tle more Patience would have
“ crown'd your Attempt with
“ Success, and I must either have
“ the Mortification to think that
“ you have but a poor Opinion
“ of my Merit, or that you are
“ one of those mighty delicate
“ Gallants, who love their own
“ dear Persons too much to un-
F dergo

“ dergo any Fatigue for the
 “ greatest Favours a Woman can
 “ bestow. Your Retreat, Sir,
 “ hath given a terrible Blow to
 “ the Value I put upon myself,
 “ since neither my Charms,
 “ nor the delicious Prospect of
 “ your soon being made as happy
 “ as a Lover can be in the Pos-
 “ session of a Mistress, could sup-
 “ port you under the Pains you
 “ felt beneath my Bed ; but had
 “ I been in your Case, and ani-
 “ mated with a Passion so violent
 “ as you have represented yours
 “ to be, methinks the Prospect,
 “ not at all uncertain, of soon
 “ changing an uneasy Situation
 “ below, to an agreeable one
 “ above the Bed, wou’d have
 “ made me very patient ; but
 “ Count *Saxe* thought otherwise,
 and

“ and I should perhaps think
 “ otherwise too, were I meta-
 “ morphosed into a *Petit-maitre*,
 “ and fonder of Ease than of any
 “ Woman upon Earth : To shew
 “ you, however, how good na-
 “ tured a Creature I am, ap-
 “ point a Place of Rendezvous
 “ yourself, and I will face the
 “ Enemy with flying Colours;
 “ but if any cross Accident should
 “ fall in our Way, blame For-
 “ tune and not your humble
 “ Servant,”

M. P.

After the Count had read this
 Letter, he told *D——t* that he
 would send an Answer to her
 House in the Evening, who made
 a very profound Curtesy, and re-
 tired. When she was gone, see,

F 2

said

said he, putting the Letter into
 my Hand, what a malicious jilt-
 ing Devil this Girl is. We must
 contrive some Scheme or other to
 bite the Biter, for I shall not have
 an easy Hour 'till I am revenged.
 Come, *Monbrun*, set thy plotting
 Head to work, and think of some
 Stratagem to humble this intole-
 rable Coquette. Tho' I am per-
 suaded, answer'd I, that she has
 punish'd you for attacking her
 Virtue, and will always throw
 Obstacles in the Way to disappoint
 you; yet to be assured that such
 are her Intentions, I would,
 were it my Case, propose a meet-
 ing at *D——t's*. If she con-
 sents to come within the Walls of
 that sanctified House, I shall con-
 clude that she really intends to
 make you happy, and if she refu-
 ses,

ses, you must even resolve to do as you have done with *M——te*, leave off your Pursuit, and forget her, or, if you must be revenged, blast her Reputation by insinuating to the President *M——le's* Lady, that you are in *M——le's* good Graces; that Patroness of Scandal will whisper it to half a Score before she goes to Bed, and in 24 Hours, the Story, with many fine Additions, will be known by all the gay Part of the Town; but this Method of Revenge is what I would not recommend to another, nor chuse myself, because I think a Woman cannot treat a Man too ill, who intends to make a W——e of her.

Thou art a Noble Fellow for Invention, cry'd he, and hast ex-
F 3 actly

actly learn'd the Cant of the Monks, when they act the Procurers. They direct a Man in every Step that he must take, protesting solemnly that what they say is so far from exciting to lewd or ungodly Actions, that they will, retired in their Cells, pray that Heaven may extinguish all carnal and lascivious Desires in those whose Hearts are warmed with the seductive Charms of Women. I will try to get this *Belle* to *Dumont's*, and if she comes there, I will, in my turn, squeeze her jilting Ladyship; but if she disappoints me, what then—— No—— I must even think of her no more, but to pray that her Virginity may choak her, or that she may get an old fumbling Husband, and be obliged to beg the Favour of me to
cuckold

cuckold him; which I disdainfully will refuse. I must now, added he, write a Letter to the Minister, and afterwards my Pen shall trace, not the Dictates of my Heart, but what I think will be most conducive to deceive her's; and in acting this Part, I'm supported by that *Matchave-
lian* Maxim of *Fallere fallentem* * &c. for, to speak ingenuously, if ever Revenge can be allowable, I have a Right to it, and whatever you or other holy Monitors such as you may profess, where you are not personally concerned, yet had any Female tantalized you so barefacedly as this half *Spanish Donna* has done my Worship, your
F 4 Hearts

* Bite the Biter.

Hearts would suck in the rancorous Gall, and breath nothing but Destruction of the Virgin Fort, and the sweet Pleasure of Revenge. This by way of Digression; now, if you chuse to divert yourself with a Book while I am writing my political and amorous Epistles, or incline rather to go out, in this Case, I shall expect to see you at the Play, and will sup together here, where, for one Part of the Desert you shall have a Copy of what I write to my deceitful Fair one, to put up with the rest of the precious Materials which you are to throw together, when you favour the World with my Adventures.

As I was not in the Humour of Reading, I resolved to thrust myself

self into the Circle of Philosophers and learned Pedants, to half a Dozen of whom the Marchioness of St. *Laurent* gave regularly, twice a Week, a very elegant Dinner, for the Pleasure of hearing their learned Dissertations, of which she understood as little as I do of the *Chinese* Language; and yet took upon her to determine whose Opinion she thought most rational and just, and by a happy Chance sometimes happened to hit right; and what is still more surprising, she had so extraordinary a Memory, that she repeated almost Word for Word, the Opinion which had the Honour of her Approbation, without knowing more what was meant by the Words, than the Parrot who calls his Lady a mighty beautiful

F 5 Dame,

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F 5 Dame,

Dame, and the Cook a mighty dirty Fellow. The Subject of that Day's Conference was, *Whence it is that every one is zealous for his own Opinion?*

The first who spoke upon the Question was the Abbé P——u.

Men, said he, desire nothing but *Good*, distinguished into *Honour*, *Profit* and *Pleasure*. None of which are gotten by Obstinacy in a different Way of thinking, but on the contrary, renders a Man contemptible with the Persons with whom he differs; and therefore in order to be well thought of, he must chime in with the general Sentiments, or at least drop his own, tho' ever so well founded, to avoid giving Offence
to

to the united Judgments of others ; and as such a Condescendence is a flat Contradiction to that Superiority of Capacity with which Self-love flatters us ; hence arise those Wranglings so frequent not only in Scholastic Disputes, but likewise in familiar Conversation ; and we rarely find Persons who fancy themselves endowed with more Knowledge than others, so moderate or modest, as to resist the Desire of expunging the Ignorance or wrong Conceptions of those whom they think they can easily confute : This Stimulus of Self-love and Vanity, prompts them to exert all their Skill ; and when they push their Adversaries in Opinion too hard, the Consequence is, that the Conquerors maliciously exult in their Victory, and the Conquer'd

are so ashamed of their Defeats, that they are inspired with bitter Resentment against their Antagonists, and persist in their Opinions tho' they cannot defend them.

The next who spoke was a learned Limb of the Law, named *Peron*, who made a long and metaphysical Harrangue upon real and imaginary Good, which I did not understand, and consequently could not remember; but after he had, at least in his own Opinion, proved, that it seemed impossible for a Man not to be concerned for his *Good*; which, according to him, consisted in his Judgment's being always esteemed; he concluded, that a Man who has judged of a Thing and given his Advice, at least, according to his

his Apprehension, seeing that Advice rejected, falls into a double Interest ; one arising from the charitable Inclination which he hath for the Good of him who consults him, and whom he seeth likely to miscarry, by not following his Advice: The other is his own proper Interest, for the slighting his Advice, or dissenting from his Opinion, is a tacite accusing him of failing in a thing essential to his End, and calling him no less than a Monster, or *Fault of Nature*. For as a Monster is called a Fault of Nature, because the Agents producing it have deviated from the Way which she had traced out and prescribed to them : So Man not judging as he ought, deviates from the Way that leads to his End. The slighting his Opinion is shocking,

ing, because it reflects upon his Judgment, and brands him with the Crime of being a Liar in Knowledge. Nothing offends a Man more than to be called Fool, that is stupid and unable to judge, and such Appellations, however indecent, and productive sometimes of the most violent Resentments, are but too frequent in warm Disputes, and always produce Obstinacy in our Sentiments, strong enough to determine us right or wrong in their Favour, often raising Choler and Spite to such a Height, that we will not even yield to Conviction.

The Third who stood up was the famous *Abbé de Pluche*, from whom I expected a long and learned Dissertation, but was greatly

ly disappointed; not that this truly ingenious Man was not capable of giving more satisfactory Reasons than any of the Members, but because, I suppose, he did not think it worth while to enter deeply into the Question in such a Place. One of the principal Reasons, said he, why Men are generally so zealous and wedded to their Opinions, tho' they know them to be false, is, that the more false Things are, the more they are their own. A true Opinion is ours indeed, but not altogether, for it is also *in the thing*; whereas that which is false is only ours, having no Foundation *in the thing*, but meerly in our Mind, which imagines it to be, tho' it be not. Whence it is that there is no Religion nor Heresy so false, but
have

have had their Authors and Followers ; and, indeed, 'tis chiefly in that kind of Judgement that we will not be controlled, because our Mind, which of it self is pleased with sublime Things such as they are which concern Religion, is the more zealous of them the more false they are, as being altogether our own.

The Fourth, whom I did not know, spoke a great Deal, I thought to very little Purpose, and all I could make out of his elaborate Harangue, was, that he referred the Cause of our Zeal for our own Opinions, to the Difficulty of defacing that which is Engraven in our Understanding.

The

The Fifth, named Monsieur P——r, and who was a zealous Stickler for *Jansenism*, very dogmatically assured us, that our being wedded to our Opinions, was the Consequence of first Impressions ; and to our being grounded in different Principles, which are scarce ever to be got the better of while we live ; tho' sometimes Interest may make us seemingly abandon them.

The Sixth who was a smart young Abbé, told us a Story of a Man, whose Wife being drowned in a rapid River, the Husband went to seek her up the Stream ; and when he was told that he must go down, if he wanted to find the Body ; he answer'd that they did not
know

know his Wife's Humour : For since others floated down with the Current of the Water, she would infallibly ascend against the Stream. From which he inferred, that the Reason of many People's being wedded to their Opinions, proceeded from a Habit they have of contradicting all Sentiments different from their own.

The Marchioness made a short Encomium upon the Learning and Capacity of each Member, and at last determined in Favour of the Lawyer *P——n*, whose Harangue she repeated with great Exactness, to my very great Surprize ; and the Rest of the Members not in the least piqued at the Preference given to him, made each in his Place a very low congratulatory Bow;

Bow ; after which the Assembly broke up, and every one went where Business or Diversion called them. For my Part, I went to the Play-house, where I met with the Count, and we came to his House together ; and when there, the first Thing he did was to put into my Hands a Copy of his Letter to Miss P——re, which I had left him writing, and here it is.

To Miss P——re.

“ SINCE you are so good,
 “ Miss, as to leave to my
 “ Choice, the Place where I am
 “ once more to be blest with
 “ your Presence, I beg that it
 “ may be at Mrs. D——t’s ;
 “ where I hope, the Recital of my
 “ Sufferings under your Bed,
 “ will

“ will convince you that it was
 “ high Time to be gone, after I
 “ had bore, I don’t know how
 “ long, the Thumps and Bounces
 “ of an amorous Pair, who did
 “ your Bed the Honour of mak-
 “ ing it the Couch of their Plea-
 “ sures ; and had the luscious
 “ Scene lasted but a few Minutes
 “ longer than it did, I should
 “ have either been obliged to call
 “ out and expose you, or die a
 “ Martyr, which would have been
 “ attended with still worse Con-
 “ sequences. My Patience under
 “ the most exquisite Torture, and
 “ my leaving the House from the
 “ Dread of being surprized by
 “ the Maid’s Return, were, in my
 “ humble Opinion, the greatest
 “ Proofs of Self-denyal and Re-
 “ spect that I could possibly give
 “ you ;

“ you ; and I cannot but think,
 “ that when you coolly examine
 “ the Case, you’ll conclude that
 “ my Behaviour deserved rather
 “ to be commended than rallied,
 “ since the Motive of my Flight
 “ was the Regard I had to your
 “ Reputation, which I will always
 “ prefer to my own Happiness.
 “ It is in your Power, my Char-
 “ mer, to complete it, without
 “ the Dread of Interruption, or
 “ exposing my yet aking Bones
 “ to a new squeezing. Mrs.
 “ *D——t* is a discreet Woman,
 “ and I hope it will be at her
 “ House (the Day and Hour at
 “ your Appointment) where the
 “ lovely *P——re* will receive
 “ the Homage of her faithful
 “ Slave.”

C. S A X E.
 Just

Just as we were sitting down to Supper, arrives the active and obliging *D——t*, with an Answer to the Count's last Letter ; and he was so elevated with the Prospect of the Accomplishment of his Wishes, that he took the complaisant Dame by the Hand, and insisted upon her supping with us, which she very readily accepted. Supper past as Suppers usually do, when Servants attend ; but when we came to the Desert, Bottles and Glasses were placed on the Table, the Footmen retired ; then sparkling Champagne enlivened our Conversation and banished Reserve.

D——t was a Woman of Wit, and less covetous than most of her Trade.

Trade. Mademoiselle *P——re* was the first who was brought before our censorious Tribunal. Do you think, *D——t*, said the Count, that she will come to your House ? A burnt Child dreads the Fire ; I have been twice already disappointed, and I am suspicious that she has still some jilting Scheme in her Head. How can it be imagined, said she, laughing, that this young Lady, whose Passions are, to my certain Knowledge, not of the most moderate, will deny herself the Pleasure which she may expect from the Count *a quatorze*, i.e. *Fourteen*. Madame *de P——c* asked me, t'other Day, if I had heard of your surprizing Abilities, and if I believed what Fame reported of your extraordinary Performances ? For the Solution

lution of your Question, Madam, said I, there's none more capable than your Friend Madame *de St. E——e*. I am credibly informed that she and the Count have lately been much together, and as she is allowed to be a fine Woman, I suppose he has exerted himself to the utmost of his Power ; and yet I was assured by the Marchioness of *R——t*, who is *St. E——e*'s Shadow, that the little *Cavalier* of *Rouen* had not only got the better of you, but of all her Ladyship's Admirers ; not, I suppose, from a Superiority of Talents, but because he generously, and in the most genteel Manner, empties his well filled Coffers to supply her Extravagancies ; and what obliges her above all Things, when she wants to get the poor Creature her Husband

Husband out of the Way, is, that *Cavalier*, who is a favourite of the Duke of *E——f's*, and has made no Secret of his Intrigue to his Grace, prevails with him every now and then, to invite the Husband to come and hunt with him, where he generally stays a Fort-night or three Weeks ; during which, Madam and her Gallant have a Round of uninterrupted Pleasures : But I hear *Cavalier's* Family, who are with Reason afraid that this young giddy Fellow will ruin himself, are threatening hard, not only to inform the Husband of his Wife's Gallantry, but likewise to apply to Court, in case *St. E——e* puts not a Stop to it, to get the Lover confined at *St. Lazarus*, and the Lady in a Convent ; so that I imagine, added

G

she

the smiling, and looking at the Count, you will soon have her all to yourself; because I certainly know that *Cavalier* has had Interest enough with her, to get the *Chevalier de B—n*, and *Monsieur de G—n* discarded, and his own Turn will come next, if his Mother, who is a sort of a devout Lady, has Interest enough, with the Assistance of the *Curate of St. Sulpice*, and half a score of very pious Monks, to get her Son lodged in that Purgatory of Rakes and Libertines. I assure you, said the Count, that I am not at all disposed to make a Monopoly of that Lady, so far from it, that I am resolved to have no farther Commerce with her upon the Footing of Gallantry; for tho' it must be allowed, that she is lovely as to her Person, yet she has
neither

neither Delicacy, nor such Sensation as is necessary to raise a Lover's Ardour : The Pleasures of the Table are Enjoyments which she prefers to all other Sensualities, and she's quite a Stranger to those Raptures which make some of her Sex so agreeable to ours ; so that, in the Arms of a fond Lover, she's as lifeless as a Statue. A Woman with less Beauty and stronger Passions, hits my Taste better than the charming, but icy *St. E——e*, who in my Opinion, is neither capable of Love nor Hatred ; she's a sort of Marble *Madona*, as perfect in Shape, Features, and in the whole Symmetry of her lovely Person, as that Master-piece of Art at *Rome*, which inflamed a passionate *Spanish Don* to such a Pitch, that he remained whole Nights in

the Church, clasping the cold in-
 animated Object of his Desires in
 his fond Arms ; but having un-
 fortunately, in one of his rapturous
 Embraces, broke one of the *Ma-*
dona's big Toes, that unlucky Ac-
 cident was the Occasion of a Dis-
 covery. Two Men were ordered
 to conceal themselves in the Church,
 and to watch Night and Day if any
 human Creature or other Animal
 approached the Holy Statue ; and
 the very first Night they disco-
 vered the sacrilegious Lover, of
 which they made Report, and the
 poor infatuated *Spaniard*, some
 Nights thereafter, was surrounded,
 just as he was getting upon the
 Pedestal, by half a dozen *Skirris*,
 who dragged him to the Prison of
 the Inquisition ; and as his Crime
 was of the most atrocious and
 enormous

enormous kind, that a Man could possibly be guilty of, he was condemned to the most cruel Death that could be devised : This Story I was told by one who happened to be in *Rome* at the Time, and assured me that it was Fact : But *à propos*, *Monbrun*, added he, I have forgot all this time to shew you Miss *P——e's* Billet, which he then put into my Hand, and it contained what follows.

“ **T**O morrow, at Ten, I shall
 “ go to the House of Prayer,
 “ and at Eleven to the Bearer’s
 “ Mansions of Pleasure, where
 “ there’s neither Bells to ring,
 “ Mothers to interrupt, nor Bones
 “ to be squeezed ; but where I
 “ dread and yet wish to see my
 “ lovely Enemy.” Adieu.

To judge of this Lady by her Letters, said I, one would think that she's of an amorous Constitution, and that she wants nothing but favourable Opportunities to gratify her Desires ; and yet I have still Doubts about her Sincerity ; tho' at the same time, I can scarce allow myself to think that she would have consented to come to Mrs. D——t's, if she were not really disposed to make you happy : Why truly, said the Count, I'm of the same Opinion, and suppose her to be as much upon the Jilting Lay, as the renown'd Miss C——, who has made some Fools spend their Estates without gaining their Ends. I cannot see what Stratagem she can possibly invent to disappoint me ; if I have her but once
under

under the Roof of my good Friend here. 'Tis my Opinion, said she, smiling, that she longs to be there as much as you ; and will, if I am not very much mistaken, meet you with equal Ardour and Courage. I cannot help owning, answer'd I, that the Count's Hopes seem to be built upon a reasonable Foundation, and that he has ten to one odds on his Side, and yet I am doubtful that this Assignment, will some how or other, be no more successful than the two former : Thou art the strangest Fellow in the World, cry'd he, always full of Diffidence and Doubts, and much readier to make a Man uneasy by thy imaginary Fears, than to flatter his Hopes with Success ; but all thy gloomy Apprehensions shall not darken the delightful Prospect

of the happy Scene of Pleasure which lyes before me. I wish, said I, that my Fears may be groundless; and as Repose is necessary for Tomorrow's arduous Task, in which your Honour is so deeply engaged, I will now wish you good Night and good Success; and I believe Mrs. *D——t*, who is no Stranger to the Nature of your hazardous and difficult Enterprize, will follow my Example. Ay, ay, said she, let him enjoy a good Night's Rest, that he may be the better prepared. The Count ordered his Chariot to conduct Mrs. *D——t* and me to our different Habitations; so away went we, and left him in high Spirits, upon the Prospect of his Happiness next Day.

I was

I was scarce got out of Bed when the Count's *Valet de Chambre* came and told me, that his Master begg'd I would come to his House upon an Affair of Consequence. I told the Servant that I would wait upon him the Moment I was dress'd. I had twenty different Conjectures, upon this Message, and was almost persuaded that something with Regard to his Intrigue with Mademoiselle had happened, about which he wanted to consult me ; and so far I was not mistaken ; but little dreamed that I was pitched upon by him to be an Actor in the amorous Scene. Upon my coming into his Apartment, see, my Friend, said he, giving me a Letter, what a whimsical Devil I have

to do with ; and when you have read this Letter, let me know if you'll be one of three Combatants, that are to engage with three brisk Enemies in the Field of *Venus*, at 5 o'Clock this Afternoon ? I made no Answer, but read the Letter, which was from Miss *P——re*, and contained what follows.

To Count SAXE.

“ **Y**OU know, Sir, it has
 “ been of Old, and still
 “ continues to be a Practice among
 “ your fighting Folks, that in the
 “ Case of a Duel, the Parties,
 “ with a View to give their Friends
 “ an Opportunity of signalizing
 “ their Bravery, invite one or two,
 “ and sometimes more, as Se-
 “ conds ; who, without any Quar-
 “ rel,

“ rel, to imitate the Example of
 “ their Principals, fight as they
 “ do. As I look upon your
 “ Affair and mine to be a sort of
 “ a Duel not so bloody, nor so
 “ dangerous, indeed, as where
 “ nothing but Death can satisfy
 “ the Combatants ; yet as you
 “ are a terrible Man, and have a
 “ terrible unbending Weapon, and
 “ as the Fortune of War is du-
 “ bious, I shall bring a Couple of
 “ Female Friends along with me,
 “ on whose Courage I can depend
 “ as well as my own ; and I de-
 “ sire you may bring the same
 “ Number of Males along with
 “ you, on whose Bravery you can
 “ rely. But to be serious, we
 “ Women, are now-a-days in the
 “ Practice of you Men ; that’s to
 “ say, we disclose, without re-
 G 6 “ serve,

“ serve, the whole Secrets of our
 “ Hearts to our most intimate
 “ Friends. And as yesternight
 “ I had Occasion to see two of my
 “ Comrades, I could not, without
 “ an unpardonable Breach of
 “ Friendship, and a solemn Agree-
 “ ment sworn to by us, conceal
 “ any Part of your Amour and
 “ mine, and our Appointment
 “ this Day at Eleven. Upon
 “ which they both generously of-
 “ fer’d themselves as Seconds, de-
 “ firing me to acquaint you that
 “ I was to be so accompanied ;
 “ and that you might bring two
 “ Cavaliers with you, to whom
 “ you may promise, upon my
 “ Word, as warm a Reception as
 “ I intend to give you ; but as
 “ my Friends cannot come to the
 “ Field of Battle till Five in the
 After-

“ Afternoon, you must have
 “ Patience till then ; in the mean
 “ Time, let me know your Opi-
 “ nion of my Proposal ; and if
 “ you have any Acquaintances fit
 “ to enter the Lists with the two
 “ Heroines that are to accompany
 “ me.

And you'll oblige, &c.

M. P.

Well, said he, What do you think of this whimsical Proposal ? Think, answer'd I, What can I think, but that the Lady has a Mind to have her two Friends regaled as well as herself, if two such as you can be got, which I'm afraid will be no easy Matter. As for the Actors, said he, there's no great Difficulty, of finding such as are duly qualified ; for Instance,
 who

who can deny but the Cavalier now before me has given Proofs of his Bravery and Heroism in the Field of *Venus*, and the Marquis *d'O* —— I will, I da e say, be extremely fond to make one in this Conflict, for you know he's as willing a Mortal as any in *France*. As for myself, replied I, tho' I am perhaps more willing than capable, and find that the Prospect of the delicious Entertainment raises in me Desires which I would gladly indulge ; yet an unlucky Affair, in which I am engaged this Afternoon, puts it absolutely out of my Power to attend you as a Second ; but I have one in my Eye who will act his Part much better than I can pretend to do : And as this Combat is merely sensual, without Sentiments or any Attachment
flowing

flowing from Affection or Esteem, his being a Foreigner will be no Objection to his being admitted as a Combatant, since fine Deeds are more required than fine Speeches : The Cavalier I mean, is Sir *John Whitrong*, an *English* Gentleman whom you have seen, and who passes for a Warrior, whom few exceed in Feats of Gallantry ; I dare say he'll be proud of the Honour done him, and if you think proper I will make him a Visit and propose the Thing to him. With all my Heart, cry'd the Count, and give him at the same Time an Invitation to come and dine with me, that we may hold a Council of War before we take the Field ; and while you are gone, I will write a Billet to *d'O——l*, acquainting him that an Affair of Honour

Honour obliges me to bespeak his Company this Day at Dinner, and for the whole Afternoon.

I left the Count and went to Sir *John*'s Lodgings in *Dauphiny-Street*, whom I found at Breakfast with two Opera Ladies, who looked upon me, I suppose, as an officious Intruder ; however, after I had drank a couple of Cups of Chocolate, finding that the Ladies made no Motion of going, I told Sir *John*, that, with the Permission of the Company, I beg'd to say one Word to him in his Closet; upon which he got up, and we went into the Closet, he shutting the Door behind him, where I briefly told him my Commission. He smiled and told me, in half *French* and half *English*, that the Count did him a great deal of Honour,

Honour, in admitting him to his Parties of Pleasure; adding, that tho' he and one of his Country-men had appointed to take a short jaunt to the Country, with the two Girls, in the next Room, he would put off his going with them upon a Pretence of unexpected Business, if his Friend did not chuse to go with them alone, or find a Comrade to supply his Place; but in all Events, you may tell the Count, with my Compliments, that I will not fail to wait upon him: Upon which we returned to the Ladies, whom I left with the Knight, and came back to the Count's, where I found d'O——l, who imagining that his Friend had some Quarrel upon his Hands, had come along with the *Valet de Chambre* that went for him,

him, and was in great Raptures of Joy, when he knew the Business, dispatching his Servant to the *Hotel* of the *Musquetaires*; acquainting the Commander that a Letter from his Father obliged him to go with all Expedition to *Versailles*, hoping he would excuse his not coming himself (having a long Paper to copy over) to ask leave, and to receive his Commands.

As I am now provided in Seconds, said the Count, I must let Mademoiselle know that I accept the Challenge in the Terms proposed, and shall bring two Friends along with me, who will, I hope, give her Proofs of their Bravery, while she and I are engaged; and so saying he went into his Closet where he wrote what follows, and of which, according

ing

ing to my laudable Custom I took
care to write an exact Copy.

“ **S**INCE it is now the Prac-
 “ tice, my Charmer, among
 “ you Ladies, to be so open-
 “ hearted with one another, and
 “ so generous, as to wish your
 “ Friends may be made as happy
 “ as yourselves ; it would be un-
 “ generous in me to appear more
 “ selfish than you, and therefore
 “ I have made it my Business to
 “ provide two Seconds, Men
 “ duly qualified for the Work
 “ they are to be employed
 “ in, and whose Weapons are
 “ so well temper’d, that they
 “ will pierce Boards without
 “ bending. I resolved, ’tis true,
 “ to have met the Darling of my
 “ Heart without Attendants, and
 “ I had

“ I had no small Pleasure in think-
 “ ing I was this Day to be the
 “ happiest Man on Earth, but I
 “ now find that others, under
 “ the same Roof, and at the same
 “ Time, are to be in their own
 “ Opinions equally blessed. ’Tis
 “ the Will of my Sovereign,
 “ and I must obey. I have still
 “ this Advantage over my Friends,
 “ that they have no other Incite-
 “ ments, but the general Propen-
 “ sity which Nature has planted
 “ in our Sex, for the proper Ob-
 “ jects, whereas my Desires are
 “ founded upon a thorough
 “ Knowledge of your internal as
 “ well as external Endowments
 “ and Perfections; consequently my
 “ Passion springs from the Source
 “ of Esteem, which cannot be
 “ their Case, so am I well assured
 “ that

“ that when we come to a close
 “ Engagement, my Ardour will
 “ exceed their’s, in proportion to
 “ the superiour Value that I must
 “ necessarily have for her, whom
 “ I shall, at 5 o’Clock, I hope,
 “ this Evening, clasp in my fond
 “ Arms, and be so wrapt up in
 “ the Extasy of my own Happi-
 “ ness, that I shall neither think
 “ of, nor envy any other’s Feli-
 “ city; Oh! how I hug myself
 “ with the delicious Prospect!
 “ if my Imagination now rises so
 “ high on the bare Thoughts
 “ of the yet distant Bliss, into
 “ what a Maze of enchanting
 “ Pleasure shall I be absorbed,
 “ when I come to taste the luscious
 “ Feast, to which I am in-
 “ vited, and for which I long
 “ with more Impatience than can
 “ be

“ be described ! Ah ! how slowly
 “ go the tedious Moments on !
 “ but the happy one will come,
 “ which will fully repay what I
 “ now suffer, and crown the Wishes
 “ of the happy ”

S A X E.

The *English* Knight was punctual to his Word, and arrived at the Count's as the Clock struck One. After Dinner, and Servants retired, the Count narrated to Sir *John* the Particulars of his Amour with Miss *P——re*, giving him her last Letter to read, which made him laugh heartily. Had I known, said he, in his broken *French*, of this famous Combat sooner, I should have probably taken care to be better prepared than I am at present; however,

ever; I will do my best when we come to engage, not to dishonour my Principal by a bad Behaviour.

I hope, Gentlemen, said the Count, to avoid Disputes about Partners, you'll allow the Ladies to name the Persons with whom they are to engage, to which they both agreed.

About four o'Clock the Three Champions set out in a Hackney Coach, without Servants, their Impatience to be at the Field of Battle not permitting them to stay any longer. I wished them all Manner of Success, and went to take a solitary Walk in the Gardens of *Luxemburgh*; where after I had taken a few Turns, I was
 accosted

accosted by two Females, who, by their Dress, seemed to be Mantua-makers, Shop-girls, or Waiting-maids. One of them said, in a low Voice; Sir, if I am not mistaken, your Name is Mr. *Monbrun*, and you are a particular Friend of Count *Saxe's*: You are not mistaken, Mademoiselle, said I; why then, replied she, if you will take the trouble to go to yonder Bank, I will acquaint you with something that nearly concerns your Friend the Count. Accordingly we went all three to the Place she pointed at, and after we were seated, she thus began.

I am, said she, at least I was, till about two Hours ago, Waiting-maid to Miss *P——re*, whom I suppose you have heard of,

of, and perhaps are informed, if you are intimate with the Count, of her Intrigue with him, in which case I can shorten my Narration. I confess, answered I, that I am not ignorant of their Affairs: Why then, replied she, you know that he was twice disappointed at her Father's House; that he is to meet her this Afternoon at Mrs. D——t's, and two other Ladies, to whom he is to provide Lovers; but I suppose both your Friend and you believe that the Disappointments were the Effect of Chance, not Design; and if you do, you are both very much mistaken. I confess, said I, that the Rendezvous this Day at D——t's removed, in a great Measure, our former Suspicions, but I shall be mightily obliged to

H

you

you if you'll be so good as to discover what you know. It was with that Design, Sir, answered she, that I used the Freedom to speak to you in this publick Place.

You must know then, continued she, that your Friend's Mistress has a Lover on whom she has bestowed her Heart ; but as her Father is a severe and covetous Man, and her Lover not rich, neither he nor she dare own their Inclinations. When the Count first made his Addresses to her, she immediately informed her Lover, and shewed him all the Letters she received ; and he, much afraid of such a dangerous Rival, advised her to let her Mother know the Count's Courtship, and to regulate her

her Behaviour according to her Directions ; so that both the Disappointments he met with were intended by the Mother as a Punishment for attempting to debauch her Daughter ; and this Day's rendezvous will put the Count to a severer Tryal than when he was squeezed under the Bed, on which I was forced, very much contrary to my Inclination, to act a Part seemingly very undecent; but Persons in my Station must obey even unjust Commands, or lose their Bread ; and had I imagined then, that my Stay in that Family would have been so short, Madam and her Daughter should have acted themselves, or found some other to perform what I was forced to do, and which, no doubt, made the Count look upon me as an abandoned

doned Wretch, while I was only so in Appearance ; but I beg Pardon for dwelling so long upon what regards myself. The Count believing, no doubt, that this second Disappointment was the Effect of Chance, continued to write Letters to his Mistress, to which it was resolved no Answers should be given till a proper Scheme was concerted ; and after many Consultations, to all which I had the Honour to be admitted, it was resolved that the Farce, which I believe is by this Time begun, should be acted.

You are not ignorant, Sir, I presume, of what is currently talked in Town, with regard to the warm Sentiments with which our old Cardinal's Breast is inspired

ed by the Charms of the two renowned Princeſſes, and with what Equality they ſhare his Eminence's Heart, without the leaſt Jealouſy or Envy ; and I believe you are better acquainted than I, or moſt People in *Paris*, how much Count *Saxe* is in the good Graces of the ſame Ladies, who vie with one another in promoting his Intereſt at Court, and have, in a Manner, forced the Cardinal, tho' he heartily hates him, to eſpouſe his Intereſt, in Oppoſition to his numerous and powerful Enemies. What a ſtrange thing muſt Love and the Power of Charms be ! ſince they can force even a Prieſt, rather than be deprived of the little inſignificant Pleaſures which he's now in a Condition to enjoy, not only to ſmother his jealous and vindictive

Disposition, (which in all other Cases is so remarkable) but likewise to exert himself in Favour of a beloved Rival : These are some of Cupid's wonderful and miraculous Operations which are not to be accounted for, far less can it be conceived how two Princesses, beautiful to Admiration, and of warm Constitutions, should without the least Jealousy or Envy, share a Heart contrary to the Practice of our Sex; and certainly what is reported of their common Lover the Count your Friend, must be true, *viz.* That he makes his Court to the Ladies with so exact an Equality, that when they compare Notes, it's impossible to determine any apparent Difference or Preference; so that they are both perfectly

perfectly content and equally admire the wonderful Man.

You know, continued she, that when your Friend was galloped on by the Valet de Chambre and me, under Miss's Bed, she was singing to the old Cardinal, to whom the Mother, knowing his Hatred to the Count, related every Circumstance of his Attempts to debauch her Daughter, not forgetting his Punishment at that very Moment, which made the Cardinal laugh very heartily. Your Eminence perhaps knows, continued she, what scandalous Doings are reported of the Princesses C——i and C——n with this Stranger, and could any Scheme be contrived to convince them of his Infidelity, your Eminence would be less

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tormented with their Sollicitations in his Favour, and our Family revenged of the Dishonour he intends to do us. I think your Injury, replied the Cardinal, is very provoking, and justifies Revenge, and if I can serve you command me. You can, said she, effectually, by giving me only a Line or two by way of Introduction to the Princess of C—i; whom I have not the Honour to know, acquainting her that the Bearer has something of Consequence to communicate to her. I approve of your Project, answered he, with respect to the Princess, but don't think proper to appear in the Affair; however, I shall think of a proper Person to introduce you, without her suspecting I have any Knowledge of the Matter, which
for

for some Reasons I think necessary ; but as the Person whom I have now in my Eye is out of Town to Day, To-morrow Morning early he shall be with you, whom I will let into the Secret, so that you have nothing to do but to go along with him, and by his Means procure an Audience of the Princess, begging only she would be so good as to protect your Daughter against the Count, bent upon her Ruin, and that to convince her Highness that there was no Imposition on her Part, she might herself be an Eye Witness if she pleased, in the Manner she would have the Honour to propose, if she would be so good as to grant her Request, and in so saying the Cardinal took his Leave.

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You'll

You'll perhaps be surprized, Sir, how I came to know their Conversation, but Miss, when she came to her own Apartment, told me every Word of it, and was highly pleased when she heard how the Count had been handled, and that he was retired no doubt with aking Bones.

Next Morning about eight, the Count de M----- came to conduct Mrs. P----- to the *Hotel of Conti*, where they went together about Ten in his Coach; and no sooner was Word brought to the Princess that he and a Lady desired an Audience, than they were admitted. Madam, said the Count upon entering, as this Lady has something to communicate to
your

your Highness in private, I have presumed to introduce her ; and in so saying he retired to one of the Publick Rooms, to wait till the Conference was over.

Mrs. *P——rre*, after briefly relating what had passed between the Count and her Daughter, pulled out his last Letter, which she put into the Princess's Hands ; who after having read it, told her smiling, I find, said she, that the Count is in high Spirits, upon the Prospect of being happy this Day with your Daughter ; but if she goes to that *D——t's* House with two others, as she proposes, who can prevent her and her Friends complying, either voluntarily or by Force, with the Desires of Men who will attempt any

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Thing

Thing rather than be baulked? Madam, answered she, I have thought on an infallible Way of keeping the Count and his Friends within due Bounds, but I dare scarce venture to propose it; by all Means let me know your Scheme, said the Princess, and if I can assist you in it, to be sure I will; then Madam, replied she, you yourself, with some other Lady of your Acquaintance, must do my Daughter the Honour to accompany her. I know the Count's Respect for your Highness, will not only preserve my Daughter, but make him relinquish all Designs upon her Honour for the future: And I beg, throwing herself at the Princess's Knees, that your Highness will condescend to grant my humble Request; not
upon

upon my own, or my Family's Account, but rather for the Sake of Virtue, for which your Highness is so eminently distinguished.

The Princess was silent for a Minute or two, and so thoughtful that she did think of desiring Mrs. P—————re to change her humble Posture ; but at last awaking as it were out of a Dream, Madam, said she, taking her by the Hand to raise her up, the Singularity of the Affair you have communicated to me, and particularly your Proposal, made me so uncivil as to let you remain, much longer than I ought to have done, in this unbecoming Posture ; and I have no other Way to obtain your Pardon so effectually, as by telling you that after a little Reflection, I
am

am determined to go with your Daughter, and another Friend of mine, to see what this terrible Count and his Seconds have to say ; and I am apt to think my Presence will not only cool their Courage, and keep them within the Bounds of Respect at *D——t's*, but likewise prevent his plaguing your Daughter any more with his Amours : You may therefore come here with her this Afternoon at 4 o'Clock, and I shall be ready to go with you in a Hackney Coach, Incog. to the Place appointed, and you may judge yourself, added she, how much the Count will be confounded when he sees in the Princess of *C——i*, and very probably the Princess of *C——n*, (if she is not otherwise engaged)

engaged) Miss P——-e's two Seconds. A little after her Mother's Return, who recounted, in my Presence, what I have now had the Honour to repeat to you, a little Quarrel ensued between the Lady and me, upon my Remarks on their Project. One Word brought on another, and the Dispute at last rose to such a Height, that Mrs. P——-re fell a beating me, and I left the House with a full Resolution never to set Foot within her Doors any more; and I must confess that this Treatment and your Presence, when I was full with Resentment, tempted me by Way of Revenge, to accost you in the free, and indeed impudent Manner I did, which I hope you'll excuse; and so getting up from the Seat, she and her Friend left
me

me so surprized and confounded with what I had heard, that I let them go without so much as thanking my Informer.

What will be the Event, thought I within myself, of this odd Adventure? Will not the two Princesses abandon the Count? who must, in that Case, lose his Credit at Court, and all his flattering Hopes of commanding the Army. The Cardinal, no longer kept in Awe by the Dread of offending the Princesses, who stoop to gratify his languid Desires in the Manner he proposes, will he not join with his Enemies, and as the King is entirely govern'd by him, is not his Disgrace certain, and must he not leave this Kingdom? These
Re-

Reflections and a great many more, made me so thoughtful and so unmindful of the Company, that I found myself almost alone in the Garden, and Night coming on before I was aware, into such a Reverie had I been plunged by this disagreeable News, I began, as it were, to open my Eyes, and resolved to go and see how Things past at the Count's, where I expected to see our Adventurers very melancholy and dejected; but to my great Surprize I waited three Hours at his House without seeing him or any of his Seconds; upon which a thousand different Thoughts came into my Head, and, among others I sometimes imagined that Matters had been made up, and a general Battle fought; however as there was no

Ap-

Appearance of the Count's coming Home to Supper, I retired to my Lodging very impatient, indeed, to know the Event of this Adventure.

Next Day I went to the Count's who was still in Bed, but the Servant having told him that I was in the House, he ordered him to conduct me to his Bedchamber.

I'm not surprized, Sir, said I upon my coming in, to find you so late in Bed this Morning, considering how much you must have been fatigued with the Toil of Yesterday, which I suppose was not over till pretty early this Morning ; for which Reason I should no doubt beg Pardon for my Intrusion, and should not have been guilty of it, but for the Impatience

tience I was under to give you Joy, and to know if you and your Seconds had left the Field of Battle with Honour.

You will scarce believe, cry'd he, the strange Story that I have to relate to you, nor can you conceive into what a Scrape the cursed Girl and her Mother had like to have brought me, had not Fortune and Impudence supported me, when I thought myself lost and undone : For who do you think were Miss *P-----re's* Seconds ? Two Princeffes, answered I laughing. By what Means do you know this, said he, very much surpris'd ? By a Person, replied I, whom I met accidentally, and who is perfectly informed of all the Plots that have been carried on
by

the Mother and the Daughter ; I then related my Conversation with the Maid, Word for Word, adding that by what I had told him, he could see that the Scene at *D——t's* was the only Part of the whole Intrigue that I was ignorant of. Well, said he, that you may be as well informed of that Part, as of the rest, shall be my present Business.

You must know then that about half an Hour after we were got to *D——t's*, three masked Ladies came into the Room where we were sitting, introduced by the Mistress of the House. The first Favour we asked, was to beg they would unmask ; which Miss *P———re* did directly, without Ceremony ; upon which I
started

started up and got her in my Arms, but she broke loose, telling me she could not in Honour allow of any Familiarities, till her Friends and mine were ready to keep Pace with us, and the Signal given for the general Attack, which cannot be done, added she, till some Things are settled by way of Preliminaries. In the first Place, continued she, my Seconds have resolved that yours shall determine, by Lots, with whom they shall engage, before they take off their Masks, to prevent Disputes that might otherwise arise ; and in the next Place, Lots must be likewise drawn to determine whether the Battle is to be fought two and two by Turns, or if both Sides are to fall on in the same or on different Spots of Ground ?

Tho'

Tho' my Seconds, said I, might with Justice insist on seeing the Persons Faces with whom they are to measure their Weapons, yet as I know their Courage, and Eagerness to give Proofs of it, I'm hopeful they will consent to let chance determine with whom they are to encounter, and even refer the Choice to your Friends. And as for the last Part of your Proposal, 'tis equal to me whether we all fall on at the same time, or two and two alternately ; tho' I think, Miss, as you and I are the Occasion of our Friends coming here, we ought to lead up the Dance. I find, said the Princess of C—i, rising up and taking off her Mask, that I and my Friend here, the Prin-

Princess C—n, (who unmask'd at the same time) must end this Dispute, and endeavour to prevent the dreadful Consequences that must attend such unlawful Engagements in the Eyes of God and Man; and now Count, said she, (turning and giving me a terrible Look) it is to you, as the only Author and Promoter of this unchristian and dishonourable Project, that I must direct my Discourse; and I am hopeful, by the Confusion I already observe in your Countenance, that you will look upon me and this Princess as your best Friends, by our being the Means of preventing your committing a base and unworthy Action. I am fully informed, continued she, of all the Steps you have taken to gain Miss P——e's Heart,

Heart, and to add her to the Number of your Conquests ; but instead of yielding, or being deceived by your Protestations, she has not only revenged her own Affronts, but likewise undeceived this Princess and me, who were greatly mistaken in your Character. The poor Creature, Madam, said the Princess C——an, looks so disconsolate, that I really begin to pity him ; and could wish that you would have a little Compassion on the dejected Criminal, otherwise you'll reduce him to a worse State than when he was so forely squeez'd under Miss P——re's Bed.

I must own, that I believe I really look'd silly upon seeing the two Persons in the World,
whom

whom I the least desired to see in such a Place, and upon such an Occasion; but their tossing me from one to the other in so unmerciful a Manner, roused me from my Dejection, and I resolved, let the Consequence be what it would, to stop their Mouths, and to propose, without Ceremony, that since Treachery upon all Sides had brought us to a Place consecrated to *Venus*; the only Attonement that could be made, was to offer up a voluntary Sacrifice of our Persons to that Goddess, in the Way that she has prescribed.

Ladies, said I, in a very solemn manner, addressing my Discourse to the two Princesses; since you have been both so good as to
I honour

honour me, for some time past, with so particular a Regard, that my Happiness has been much envied by Men eminent in Church and State; all my Thoughts, all my Wishes, ought, no doubt, to center in you. An Action, in itself, is neither good nor bad, but as it is directed by the Intention; and if this has its Source in the laudable Motives of raising the Value of what we admire, what's offensive or shocking in the Action, ought rather to be meritorious in the Eyes of those upon whose Account it is done, tho' it may appear criminal to others, and may be justly condemned by them as such. I shall, Madam, said I, addressing myself to the Princess of C——i, prove the Truth to
you

you beyond Dispute To-morrow Morning, at Eight, if you'll give me Leave to wait on you ; and to you, Madam, turning to the Princess of C——n, at Ten. As for this young Lady, making a low Bow to Miss P———re, if Disingenuity be a Crime, she is rather guiltier than I ; for the Sincerity of my Intention to perform what I had undertaken, cannot, I think, be disputed, and 'tis but too evident now, that she never had the least Intention of performing her reiterated Promises : If she imagines that to punish my Attempt upon her Virtue, she was authoris'd to deceive me, she has acted a much more dishonourable Part than what I am guilty of, because my Words and

Thoughts agreed ; whereas her Tongue and Pen gave the Lye to her real Sentiments ; and I don't know but that the Triumph of her Virtue would have been far more glorious, had she at first flatly rejected my Addresses, than to give me Encouragement with a firm Resolution to impose upon my Credulity : In short, every Thing consider'd, if I can forgive her Treachery, she ought to pardon the Attempts I made to conquer her Heart, even tho' I should agree with her that they were so many Snares laid to her Virtue.

I expected a Reply from the young Lady, whose Colour underwent several Alterations while I was speaking ; but Sir *John*, who seemed

seemed to be captivated with the Charms of the Princess C——n, came brushing up to her, and taking her familiarly by the Hand, told her in his comical *Baragouin*, or *Pedlars French*, that as he looked upon her to be a Lady who had given Proofs of a tender and compassionate Disposition, in the Count's Case, he did not doubt but that she would be equally disposed to pity the Misfortunes of others, particularly when they cannot be charged with any Crime that may have deserved them. I shall not pretend, added he, to enter into the Dispute between that Lady, looking at Miss P———re, and the Count, nearer Concerns, I must own, just now take up my Thoughts: A

Punctillio of Honour or of Gallantry, which you please, brought me here, where I expected to act my Part in a Scene of Pleasure; but how terribly am I disappointed, unless the Author of my Distress, be ordered by you Madam, as the Judge to whom I make my Complaint, to make Reparation of the Injury done me, on the easy and friendly Terms that I would propose. Since you are pleased, Sir, answered she, to constitute me your Judge, a Post which I confess, I am not very fond of, however, I will accept of it for once; but before I pass Sentence, I must hear both Parties. You are in the present Case, Madam, replied he, with Looks that plainly bespoke the Situation of his

his Heart, both Judge and Party, and——No more cry'd she, interrupting him, however unjust your Charge may be, as I am the Person attacked, I cannot pronounce Sentence as a Judge ; so turning to the Princess of *C—i*, Madam, said she I should be glad to have your Opinion of the Count and Miss *P———re's* Affair ; mine is, that as there are Faults on both Sides, I would have them mutually to forgive one another, and in order to cement this Reconciliation, let me beg of your Highness and this Company to accept of a familiar Supper at my House ; to which the Princess of *C—i* agreed, proposing that when we were at the Hotel of *C—n*, Miss *P———re's* Mother should be sent for ; so

away went the Ladies in their Hackney which had brought them ; and about a Quarter of an Hour after we left *D——t's*, I cursing, the Knight sighing, *d'O——l* laughing, and *D——t* crying, who would by no means accept of five Louis which I slippt into her Hand, as we were coming out, telling me that she did not expect I would affront her so, considering the Disappointments of the Day, and so forced me to take them back.

It would be an endless Work to repeat all the agreeable and merry Things that were said upon the Subject of Miss *P——re's* and my Amour, and I was very glad to find that the two Princesses did
nothing

nothing but laugh at it, assuring me that I must not imagine their excusing themselves from receiving this Morning my Visits which I had proposed at *D——t's* publickly, and afterwards privately, to any Resentment upon what had happened, but because they were to go early to *Versailles* together, which had been agreed upon the Day before.

I am glad, said I, that you have come so well off, which I really did not expect, when I heard how the Case stood, but don't you think, added I, that the Cardinal (who had conceived great Hopes of bringing you in Disgrace with the two Princesses, whose Protection only prevents his joining openly

with your Enemies) will be so piqued to find that the Affair has taken a quite different Turn from what he expected, that he will cause some of his Creatures to inform the Princess of C—i's Son, and the Princess of C——n's Husband, that the two Ladies are now become so barefacedly scandalous, as to give Rendezvouzes to their Gallants at a notorious Bawdy-house, and order Things so that the Son and the Husband will apply to him to speak to the King with such Aggravations, as will no doubt offend his Majesty. I am no Stranger, answered he, to the Cardinal's Credit with our Master, nor am I ignorant that he not only hates me, but likewise that he will lose no Opportunity of rendering

dering me bad Offices with the King ; but two Reasons lay him under a Necessity of acting with respect to me as a Friend, at the same Time that nothing would give him greater Pleasure than to see me in the Bastile or hanged, not so much upon the Account of the two Princesses, as my being, to his great Grief, let into the Secret of his villainous Scheme of making a Breach between the King and Queen, of which the real Cause is known but to a very few Persons ; and it was by the greatest Accident in the World that I happened to come at the Knowledge of this hellish Transaction ; which, to give you a signal Proof, continued he, of my Confidence in your Discretion and

Secrecy, I will impart to you, upon your Word of Honour that you will not divulge the Story 'till after my Death, or that you have my Permission. That I solemnly promise you upon my Honour, answer'd I, if you can rely upon that Assurance.

Well then, said he, you must know that after a thousand fruitless Attempts and Contrivances by the Cardinal and his two Agents the Dukes of R———*u* and E———*n* to debauch the King, and make him indifferent, or, rather, disgust him with the Queen, which they thought the only effectual Way to make him give into Gallantry, and consequently to abandon the Reins of
Go-

Government intirely to the Cardinal, into whose Management he was beginning to inspect a little too closely, and to curtail his Power daily more and more. A Search was made all over *France* for the most beautiful Women ; and some were even brought from *Germany* and *England*, and Pretences always found for their being presented to his Majesty with Petitions, and mostly when he was at *Meudon* with some of his Favourites, where Royalty was laid aside, and where his Majesty usually drank a chearful Glafs. Among other Beauties that had been presented, there was one a *German* by Birth, Daughter to an Engineer in the King's Service, a young Lady of
such

such extraordinary Charms, that it was thought impossible he could guard his Heart against this angelical Creature, who was introduced with a Petition for an Augmentation of Salary to her Father burdened with a Family of thirteen Children. The King ordered the Duke of *Richlieu* to read the Petition, and after he had heard the Contents, he call'd for Pen and Ink and wrote at the Foot of the Paper.

It is Our Will that the Suppliant have a hundred Pistoles yearly added to his former Pension.

Signed,

LOUIS.

And

And in delivering back the Paper to the young Lady, he told her very gallantly :

A Favour, Mademoiselle, asked by one of your Merit is not easily refused ; and I wish the small Augmentation I have made to your Father's Pension may make him and his Family happy.

The two Dukes had all the Difficulty in the World to hinder themselves from singing *Victoria*, not doubting but his Majesty was caught ; and when the young Lady was retired, they vied with one another, who should draw the most pompous Picture of this Master-piece of Nature.

The

The King heard them very patiently, and when they had almost run themselves out of Breath, he told them very gravely, that he scarce ever saw where the outward Form was so perfect, but there were some internal Defects that darkened the Lustre of external Charms. You're a Man of Taste R——u, said he to the Duke, don't you think that a Woman of the Queen's Mind and Accomplishments may fix a Man's Heart, tho' she has not so beautiful a Face as this Girl? But continued he laughing, I know you will think yourself obliged to praise the Queen, because you think it will be making your Court to me, and therefore that
we

we may not deviate from the Freedom and Sincerity with which every Body that comes here with me is to be indulged, I will not insist upon your answering this Question, that I may not force you to speak against your real Sentiments.

Both the Dukes were silent, and no doubt heartily vexed to find themselves so disappointed. Upon their Return to *Versailles*, they went directly to the Cardinal's Apartment, and gave him an Account of their bad Success ; adding, that if *Venus* herself should attack the King, she would be repulsed. The first Impressions, said the Cardinal are strong and easily effaced, I must fall upon a Way to undo my own Work,

Work, and when my Project is ripe for Execution, I will call you in to my Assistance : This is all I have Time to tell you now, being obliged to attend the King who has sent for me.

The cunning Priest plainly saw that there was no way to engage the King in Gallantry, but in disgusting him with the Queen, which was no easy Work ; however, as he has a Fertility of Invention above most Men, and Resolution as well as Patience enough to surmount the greatest Difficulties ; the Devil at last put it into his Head, that he must make the Queen herself the Instrument of her own Disgrace. He consider'd that she was already almost got to the
Pinnacle

Pinnacle of Bigottry, and that she might be easily scrwed up to such a Pitch of Enthusiasm, as to imagine there was no attaining to that Perfection which was necessary to a regenerated Soul, while she indulged herself in carnal Pleasures even with her Husband, who, he knew, was so hot upon that Article, that could the Queen be brought to refuse him such Grati-fications, an immediate Coldness must ensue, which would soon terminate in Indifference upon the King's Part, and lead him, insensibly, into Projects of Revenge, by procuring from others, what she so unjustly refused him.

The Queen's Confessor was the Cardinal's Creature, and the only
Person

Person capable to execute this Scheme. He knew he could intirely dispose of him, and of *Fa-L—re* the King's Confessor, who was likewise to act his Part with the King when necessary ; but the first Step was to gain the Monk who was the Queen's Director, and to furnish him with a proper Plan, which the Cardinal himself, with the Assistance of two of his favourite Jesuits at *Iffy*, drew up, that the Confessor might not be at a Loss to answer the Scruples and Objections, which she might urge for her refusing what she had Sacramentally vowed to grant. It would be tedious to enter into a particular Detail of this famous Plan ; the Authors of it had employ'd all their Skill to raise the
Ima-

Imagination with sublime Pictures of Piety, and to warm the Heart with ardent Desires of arriving at a State of Perfection almost equal to that of Angels ; in order to which there was an absolute Necessity of abstaining from all sensual Gratifications, but such as were absolutely necessary to support Life, and even the Enjoyment of these under such Restrictions and Limitations, that no Temptations should arise from a Copiousness of nutritive Juices, enervating the Powers and Faculties of the Body, and enervating in Proportion the Operations of the Mind. The next Topick, and indeed the most material of this notable Plan, was to inquire how far the lawful Enjoyments in the Married State were

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were consistent with the Spiritual Life, which must be absolutely and totally uninfluenced by any of the sensual Appetites or Inclinations; and as they are Obstructions to the Progress of the Soul in its sublime and divine Contemplations, the Persons who aim at this happy Perfection, must absolutely crush their Incitements, and give a deaf Ear to their Calls. 'Tis true, says the Plan, Heaven having created rational Creatures of different Sexes for perpetuating the Species, and peopling the World, this could not be effected but by material Operations and Contacts, and therefore to prevent Confusion, and for other wise Ends, Men and Women were allowed to indulge that natural Propensity, which

which attracts them mutually, by a Marriage Contract, which to make it the more valued, has divine and human Authority for its Sanction ; and yet however lawful, necessary, and honourable that State may be, as it is clogged with Sensualities that put us on a Level with the Brutes, he or she that would raise themselves above those mean and contemptible Enjoyments, must resolve to abandon them, otherwise they may expect to meet with perhaps insurmountable Obstacles in reaching that elevated Sphere of Virtue in which they wish to move. I am only hinting at some Parts of this elaborate Piece, which was well calculated for what it was intended ; and in less than
three

three Months the poor Queen was so intoxicated with the Thoughts of being a Saint upon Earth, that she would allow of no other Spouse but *Jesus Christ*, and flatly deny'd the King Access to her Bed ; which affected his Majesty to such a Degree, that he shut himself up for some Days, and was in such a Condition that the Cardinal was terribly afraid he would lose his Senses or his Life ; either of these Misfortunes would have thrust him out of the Administration, to preserve which, he had invented this worthy Scheme ; but what with Resentment, Father *L——e*'s Exhortations, who was now to act his Part, and above all the persuasive Arguments of a fine Lady, he was soon brought not
. only

only to be easy about the Queen, but even to give another the Place in his Heart which she formerly held ; and when the Ice was once broke, he gave so much into Gallantry, that the Cardinal held the Reins of Government without Controul, and without a Rival ; however, as he knew that it was in my Power to lay him open to his Master's Indignation, by disclosing this hidden Scene of Iniquity, he not only protects me against the Attempts of the Princes of the Blood, and the *Noailles* Faction, but likewise gives the King a better Opinion of my Military Capacity than what I deserve ; by which Means he puts an effectual Bridle on my

K Tongue,

Tongue, and forces me to concur with him in Measures which I should otherwise oppose.

Thus Ambition predominates in the Heart of a Man, who, in his younger Years, gave it wholly up to Love ; and who by his Talents, on his first Appearance at Court, in the Character of a simple Abbé, paved the Way to his present Grandeur, which he idolizes to such a Degree, that it forces him to act a Part with Respect to me, very much contrary to the Interests of his Heart, as well as to his vindictive Temper ; and I am very well assured, that if he can any how contrive a Scheme
to

to bring about my Disgrace, without appearing to be an Actor in it himself, he will embrace it with great Pleasure and Eagerness ; and I am pretty certain that if the Prince of C——i should complain to the King of this foolish Scene at D——t's, not out of any Regard to his Mother's Reputation, but rather to give his Majesty a bad Impression of me ; the Cardinal has taken some round-about Way not only to inform him of the Affair, but likewise to persuade him that his taking no Notice of it will give the Public a mean Opinion of him : so that I expect to be called to Court upon this Account ; but as his Majesty is now in the

Career of Gallantry as much as any in his Kingdom, he will not look upon this Adventure with the same Seriousness, as he would have done before he broke loose himself; and if I find out that the Cardinal has had any Hand in the Plot, I will take a proper Method of letting the Queen (who now begins to repent of what she has done, because her Conscience accuses her of having contributed to the King's Debauchery) know what Obligations she lies under to his Eminence; and I make no doubt but the Duke of *H——t*, who is inviolably attached to the Queen, and esteemed by the King, will be directly let into the Secret by her Majesty, and

and that Nobleman has Honesty and Courage enough to let his Majesty know the whole Contrivance, and what will be the Consequence of such a Discovery Time will disclose.

Here the Count ended his Story, and after returning him my Acknowledgments for the Trouble he had taken, and the Confidence he had placed in me, I took the Liberty to tell him, that I thought the Princesses should be put upon their Guard; and that if they were apprehensive of any Complaint by the Prince of C—i or C—n, it would be necessary that they themselves should communicate the whole Affair to the King as

it really happened, which must give him a very different Impression of their Conduct from what an exaggerated Complaint, representing them in the Light of Women guilty of scandalous Excesses, would naturally produce.

I had the same Thought, said he, and as I must be with Mr. D————s upon some Business that regards the Army at one o’Clock this Day ; I resolve to see the Princess of C—i, and by letting her know my Dread of the approaching Storm, tell her at the same Time, how necessary I think it is, to prevent the Effects of false and calumnious Representations,

tations, that she should be before hand with them, by acquainting the King herself of the real Story in all its Circumstances, which could not but do her and the Princess C——n Honour, instead of throwing any Blemish upon their Reputation for going to D——t's.

The Count ordered the Coach and Six to be at the Gate after Breakfast, and asked if I would accompany him; to which I agreed; about Twelve we arriv'd at *Versailles*, and alighted at the Secretary of War's Office, where the Count enter'd to speak with that Minister, and I resolv'd to take that Opportunity to call and see a

Friend of mine in the grand Commons, and whom should I meet but the very two Princesses in an open Phaeton with six Horses, drawing towards the great Avenue that leads to *Paris* ; upon which, instead of going forward to make my Visit, I immediately returned, and met the Count just coming out with an Intention to go and wait upon those Ladies ; but when he understood that they were gone, we got into the Coach, and drove after them full Speed, without being able however to come up with them on the Road ; however, they were scarce got Home when we were at their Heels. The Count ordered the Coach to drive

drive streight to the Hotel of C—i, and I left him there, having agreed to dine together at his House, where I found him at One o’Clock perfectly easy upon what we had apprehended.

The Princeffes, said he, whom I found together, laughed at my Fears, and told me that the King was too much taken up, as well as the Cardinal, at present, with the Thoughts and Preparations for an approaching War, to think of little trifling Adventures such as theirs ; and that as the Cardinal would have Occasion more than ever for my Service at this Juncture, his Politicks would get the better
of

of his Resentment, at least 'till a more favourable Opportunity offer'd ; and I am almost certain, said the Princess of C—i, that tho' he is far from being your Friend, yet he will rather chuse to see you at the Head of the Army, than any who may aspire to that Post, for Reasons that are obvious ; but, added she smiling, tho' neither this Princess nor I, if we consult what is most agreeable to us, should wish and far less use our Interest with the Cardinal to procure you this Employment ; yet I dare in her Name, as well as my own, assure you, that we prefer your Fame and Glory to our own Satisfaction ; and that we are both resolved, if
the

the War should be declared, that we will intirely break with the Cardinal, if he does not prevail with the King to give you the Command; which he can do without the Concurrence of Madame de M——. But in case he should think it necessary, for Reasons best known to himself, that she be brought over to your Interest, we shall make it our Business to accomplish that.

Such delicate and generous Sentiments deserved, to be sure, my most grateful Acknowledgments, and made me at once resolve to devote my whole Heart and Person intirely to their Service ; and when I told them

them what a Conversion they had at once wrought upon me, they both seemed perfectly pleased with the Effect of their Generosity, and I threw myself at their Knees, kissing with all the Raptures of a passionate Lover, first the one, and then the other's Hand, protesting that my Heart was equally divided between them ; and could not be happy but in the Possession of equal Favours from them both.

Well, well, cry'd the Princess C——n, we are not envious of one another's Happiness, and your divided Heart, will be a sufficient Return to the whole of ours.

The

The Arrival of Mademoiselle C——y and some other Ladies with her, put a Stop to this tender Scene, and I had only Time to say, before they came in, that next Morning I would pay my Court to them both, and confirm my new Resolutions, in a Manner that I hoped would persuade them of my Sincerity.

But instead of waiting upon the two Princesses, just as we had ended Dinner he received a Billet from the Secretary at War, acquainting him, that he had Orders from the King to let him know, that he wanted to speak to him at Eight o'Clock To-morrow Morning; which
Letter

Letter he sent to the Princess of C—i, enclosed in a Letter from himself, and received for Answer, that she wished his Journey might be to his Satisfaction.

The King received the Count very graciously, and told him that, the War being now unavoidable, he had resolved to give him particular Marks of Distinction in his Armies, being very well assured of his Capacity and Affection, and desired he would attend the Councils which were to settle the Plan of Operations for the first Campaign, in which he should serve as Lieutenant-General for Reasons; but that he intended soon
to

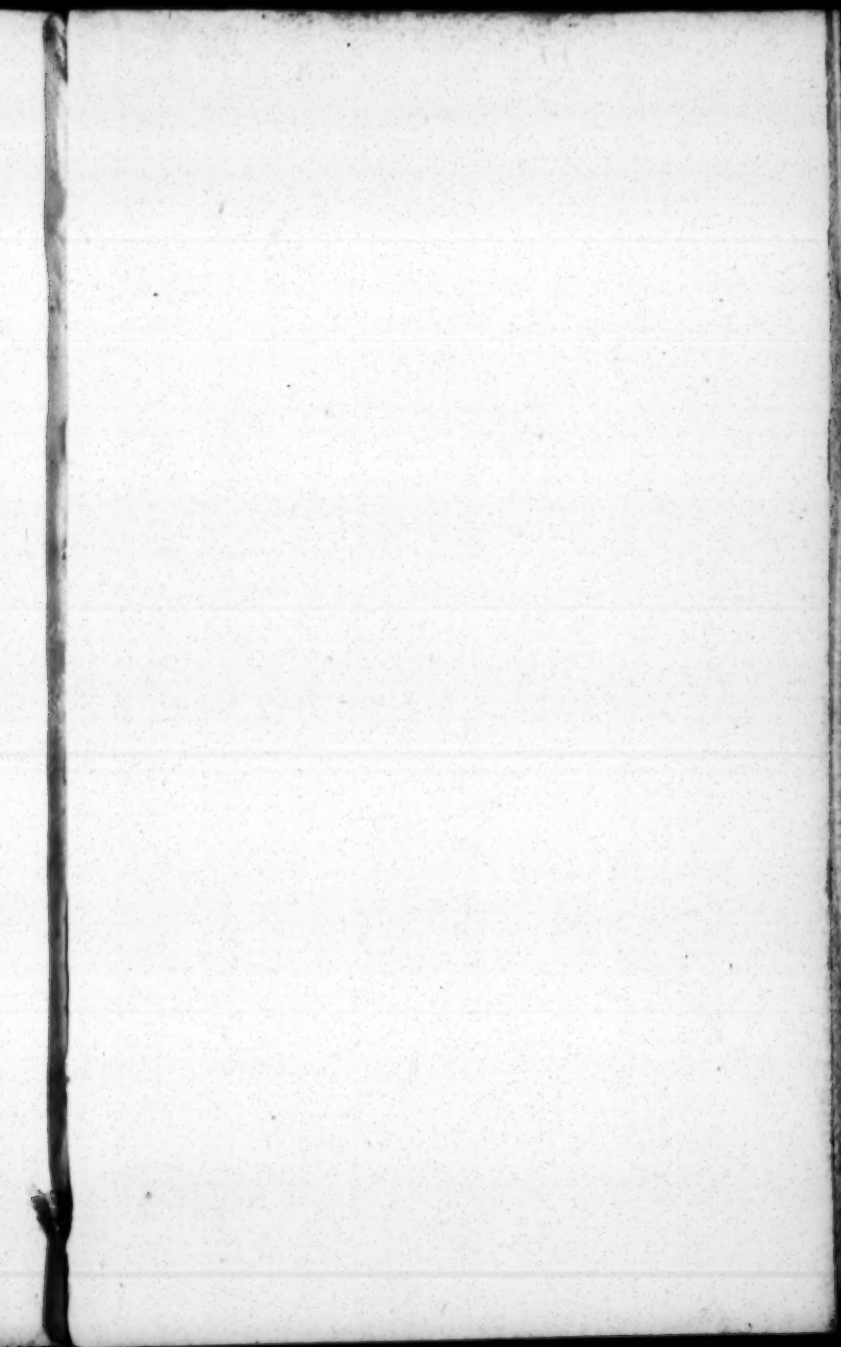
to give him the Chief Command.

His new Military Employment gave him now but little Time for Diversions of any kind, and, the Princesses excepted (to whom his Visits were not so frequent as usual, or as he wished) he had no Communication with any of his old female Acquaintances, except by way of Amusement, while he was in the Field conquering the King's Enemies, and immortalizing his own Memory by his almost incredible Successes; but tho' I had the Honour of being his Aide-Camp during every Campaign that he made, and could take upon me, from the Journals

nals I kept, to give an impartial and exact Account of the Progress of the late War ; yet as I only proposed in these Memoirs to recount his Exploits in the Field of *Venus*, I shall leave the martial Part of his Life to some abler Pen ; and only add, that if Justice be done him, it must be allowed even by his Enemies, That *France* has not produced a greater General since *Turenne's* Days.

F I N I S.





R. —

Leimnigler

76

17 pcs